

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

aHV696
.F6C5



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Office of
Analysis and
Evaluation

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households

Winter 1988

SEP 24 '93

USDA LIBRARY
NATL AGRIC. LIB.

CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS

WINTER 1988

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	i
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1 AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM.....	2
Program Changes Since the Previous Fiscal Year.....	2
Program Eligibility Requirements.....	2
Income Eligibility Standards.....	3
Resource Eligibility Standards.....	4
Nonfinancial Eligibility Standards.....	4
Benefit Computation.....	6
Food Stamp Program Participation and Costs.....	7
An Overview of Economic Developments through 1988.....	7
2 CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS.....	11
Gross Monthly Income.....	11
Net Monthly Income.....	13
Sources of Income.....	13
Aid to Families with Dependent Children.....	16
Earned Income.....	16
Social Security and Railroad Retirement.....	16
Supplemental Security Income.....	16
Deductions from Gross Income.....	16
Food Stamp Benefits.....	18
Targeting Benefits to the Most Needy.....	18
Effect on Poverty Status.....	18
Assets.....	21
Caseload Composition.....	21
Households with Children.....	22
Households with Elderly.....	22
Households with Earned Income.....	22
Work Registration.....	23
3 CHANGES IN FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS.....	25
Changes in Income.....	25
Changes in Deductions.....	25
Changes in Benefits.....	25
Changes in Household Composition.....	29
Households with Children.....	29
Households with Elderly.....	29
Households with Earnings.....	29

FIGURES

1-Food Stamp Program average monthly participation by individuals, calendar years 1982-1988 by quarter.....	8
2-Unemployment rate for civilians, calendar years 1982-1988 by quarter (data seasonally adjusted).....	10
3-Distribution of FSP households by gross and net incomes, winter 1988.....	12

TABLES

1-Major economic indicators, 1982-1988.....	9
2-Poverty status of food stamp households, winter 1988.....	14
3-Major sources of income among food stamp households, winter 1988.....	15
4-Distribution of households and benefits by poverty line, winter 1988.....	19
5-Effect of food stamp benefits on poverty status of food stamp households, winter 1988.....	20
6-Work registration status of food stamp participants, winter 1988.....	24
7-Average nominal and real monthly income of food stamp participants, summer 1987 and winter 1988.....	26
8-Comparison of poverty status of participating households, summer 1987 and winter 1988.....	27
9-Frequency and value of deductions from gross income, summer 1986 and winter 1988.....	28

10-Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit, summer 1987 and winter 1988.....	30
11-Sources of change in average food stamp benefits, summer 1987 and winter 1988.....	31
12-Changes in food stamp caseload composition, summer 1987 and winter 1988.....	32

APPENDIXES

A. Detailed Tables for the 50 States and the District of Columbia.....	33
List of Appendix Tables.....	34
B. Poverty income guidelines for 1988.....	99
C. Maximum allowable net monthly food stamp income eligibility standards in winter 1988.....	100
D. Value of standard and maximum dependent care and excess shelter deductions in continental United States and outlying areas in winter 1988.....	101
E. Value of maximum coupon allotment (Thrifty Food Plan) in continental United States and outlying areas in winter 1988.....	102
F. Source and reliability of estimates.....	103
G. Sampling error of estimates.....	107
H. Data collection instrument.....	119
I. List of previous reports in this series.....	123

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Food and Nutrition Service has conducted periodic surveys of food stamp households to determine the characteristics and circumstances of program beneficiaries. This report presents the results of the most recent survey of about 11,000 participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The report has two objectives: to describe the economic and demographic circumstances of food stamp households in the winter of 1988 and to examine changes in these circumstances from summer to winter.¹

Slightly over 19.0 million people a month received food stamp benefits in the United States in the winter of 1988. At the time these data were gathered:

- o Nearly 92 percent of all food stamp households had a total gross income that was equal to or less than the official poverty guidelines; 36 percent were below half the poverty line.
- o About 39 percent of all food stamp households also received benefits under Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). Twenty-one percent had earned income. Over 20 percent of all households received Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits; nearly 21 percent received Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- o The average deduction from gross income was \$213 per month. The most frequent deduction--other than the standard deduction available to every household--was for excess shelter costs, claimed by over 71 percent of all food stamp households.
- o The average monthly food stamp benefit was \$130 per household or \$48 per person.
- o Almost 19 percent of all food stamp households had no net income after taking the allowable deductions from gross income, and thus received the maximum allowable benefit.

¹For this winter 1988 report, winter refers to the average of data for January and February 1988. Summer refers to the average of data for July and August 1987.

- When food stamp benefits were counted along with cash income, the percentage of food stamp households below half the poverty line fell from 36 percent to 13 percent.
- The average food stamp household included 2.7 people, but there was substantial variation among different household types. For instance, an average of 3.9 people constituted a household where school-age children were present, while households with elderly members averaged only 1.5 persons. Fifty-three percent of all food stamp households contained only one or two people.
- Almost 74 percent of the heads of food stamp households were women.
- About 51 percent of all the people participating in the Food Stamp Program (FSP) were children (less than 18 years old). Another 8 percent were elderly (60 years old or older).
- Twenty percent of all food stamp households had at least one elderly member. Ninety-one percent of all elderly participants lived alone or with one other person (usually elderly as well).

A comparison of survey data from summer 1987 with the results of the current survey shows that:

- Average monthly gross income increased from \$426 per household in summer 1987 to \$434 in the winter 1988.
- The percentage of households with gross income below half the poverty line fell from 39 percent to 36 percent.
- The average value of total deductions increased from \$205 to \$213, and average net income also increased from \$239 to \$243.
- The average monthly food stamp benefit increased from \$120 per household to \$130.

INTRODUCTION

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is a nationwide program that helps low-income families and individuals buy the foods they need to maintain a nutritious diet. This assistance is in the form of coupons that can be redeemed for food in authorized food stores, thus increasing the purchasing power of low-income households. The program is authorized by Congress, administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), and operated by State welfare agencies and their local offices. During fiscal year 1988, in an average month, about 18.7 million people received food stamp benefits, at a total annual program cost of \$12.3 billion.

Since food stamp benefits add to the resources available to low-income households, the FSP can be considered part of the Federal income maintenance system. It is distinct from other income maintenance programs in two important ways. First, it is designed to provide nutritional assistance to low-income households. Thus, program benefits--the food stamps--can be used only to buy food. Second, the program is distinguished by the absence of categorical restrictions on eligibility and participation. Unlike Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), for example, program eligibility is not limited to specific types of people (parents with dependent children, the elderly, or the disabled). Instead, the FSP is available to all who meet the income and resource standards set by Congress. Thus, program participants represent a broad spectrum of the low-income population.

FNS has conducted periodic surveys of food stamp households to determine the characteristics and circumstances of program beneficiaries. This report presents the results of a survey of 11,000 participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The report has two objectives: to describe the economic and demographic circumstances of food stamp participants in the winter of 1988 and to examine changes in these circumstances from summer 1987.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the structure, size, and economic context of the FSP in the winter of 1988. Chapter 2 describes winter 1988 food stamp household circumstances in some detail, while Chapter 3 looks at trends in household circumstances and caseload composition from summer to winter by comparing the summer 1987 sample with winter 1988. Appendix A presents an extensive set of detailed tabulations of household characteristics in the winter of 1988. The other appendixes to this report contain supplemental tables, a brief description of the sample design, and a discussion on the sampling error of the estimates presented in this report.

CHAPTER 1: AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The number and characteristics of households participating in the Food Stamp Program (FSP) vary somewhat over time. Several factors contribute to these variations. Legislative changes to eligibility requirements are partially responsible. The economic status of the Nation as well as underlying demographic trends may also affect the program's level of participation and characteristics of participating households. This chapter provides some background on the general circumstances of the FSP in the winter of 1988.

The chapter begins with an overview of program changes between the summer of 1987 and the winter of 1988 and a review of eligibility requirements. This is followed by a brief summary of total program participation and costs as well as economic conditions in fiscal year 1988.

Program Changes Since the Previous Fiscal Year

The FSP was affected by legislation implemented in fiscal year 1988. First, the Immigration Reform and Control Act allowed special agricultural workers in temporary resident status to apply for food stamps beginning June 1, 1987. Second, the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act made the following provisions: it allowed families with minor children living with either the parent's parents or siblings to form a separate household; it moved the income eligibility annual adjustments from July 1 to October 1 of each year; it increased the shelter deduction cap to \$164; it excluded third-party housing assistance payments from income; and it expanded categories of households eligible for expedited services. Third, the Older Americans Act Amendments excluded Community Service Employment Program funds as income for food stamp purposes. Finally, the Charitable Assistance and Food Bank Act of 1987 excluded charitable contributions up to \$300 a quarter as income for food stamp purposes.

Program Eligibility Requirements

The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, defines the group of people who comprise a household for food stamp purposes and sets uniform criteria for their eligibility. These criteria include a gross and net income limit, a resource limit, and a variety of nonfinancial criteria. Each of these is discussed briefly below.

Income Eligibility Standards

To be eligible for food stamps, the gross monthly income of most households had to be at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines (\$14,560 annually for a family of four), and their net income had to be at or below 100 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines (\$11,200 annually for a family of four).¹ Households with an elderly or disabled member were subject only to the net income test described below. Gross income included all cash payments to the households with the exception of a few specific types excluded by law or regulation (such as loans, nonrecurring lump sum payments, and reimbursement of certain expenses). The following deductions were then subtracted from the household's gross monthly income to determine its net income:

- o A standard deduction adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the cost of living. The standard deduction was \$102 in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia in the winter of 1988.
- o An earned income deduction for working households equal to 20 percent of the combined earnings of household members.
- o A dependent care deduction for the expenses involved in caring for children or other dependents while household members worked or sought employment. The maximum value which could be claimed under this deduction was capped at \$160.
- o An excess shelter deduction for those shelter costs (such as rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, property taxes, and insurance) that exceeded 50 percent of the household's income remaining after all other deductions were taken. The limit in the winter of 1988 for households living in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia was \$164.² The limit is adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the

¹Income eligibility standards are updated every year. The figures supplied in this text were effective from July 1, 1987, through September 30, 1988, for all States and territories except Alaska and Hawaii, which have higher standards. See appendix C for the full array of monthly standards.

²Both the standard deduction and ceiling on the value of the excess shelter deductions in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the Virgin Islands were adjusted to reflect price differences from the mainland. See appendix D for the value of each in the winter of 1988.

cost of living. Households with an elderly (age 60 or older) or disabled member were exempted from this limit: they were entitled to subtract the full value of all shelter costs greater than 50 percent of their adjusted income.

- o A special medical deduction limited to households with an elderly or disabled member. These households could deduct all medical costs exceeding \$35 incurred by the elderly or disabled person. Medical expenses reimbursed by insurance or government programs were not deductible. If a household contained more than one disabled or elderly person, then it could deduct the combined medical expenses (for those disabled or elderly persons) that exceeded the elderly/disabled's initial \$35 charge.

After subtracting these allowable deductions from gross income, the household's net income was then compared to a table of monthly income limits based on the official poverty guidelines published by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). These guidelines vary by household size and are updated annually to reflect changes in the cost of living. The FSP income limits were adjusted in July 1987 to correspond to the most recent DHHS poverty guidelines. In the winter of 1988, a four-person family living in one of the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Guam, or the Virgin Islands could qualify for the program with a net monthly income of \$934 and a gross monthly income of \$1,214 or less.³

Resource Eligibility Standards

The value of a household's assets is also accounted for in determining program eligibility. Most households were permitted up to \$2,000 in countable resources. Households with at least one person age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000. Countable resources included cash on hand and assets which could easily be converted to cash, such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments. Assets also included nonliquid assets; however, the family home and lot, one family vehicle if under \$4,500 in value, and tools of a trade and business property used in earning the family income were not counted in determining eligibility.

Nonfinancial Eligibility Standards

People could qualify for benefits only as part of a "food stamp household." The household consists of those persons whose income and resources are summed to determine program eligibility and benefits. Many means-tested assistance programs define the

³Separate income limits were computed for Alaska and Hawaii. See appendix C for the full array for each household size.

household in slightly different ways, largely to target benefits to particular individuals such as the elderly or children.

In general terms, a food stamp household consisted of an individual who lived alone or who lived with others but usually purchased and prepared food separately; and groups of individuals who lived, purchased food, and prepared meals together. Individuals without minor children living with their siblings or parents under age 60 were considered as living in the same household as their siblings or parents regardless of their food preparation practices. Also, an individual 60 years or older (and spouse) who was unable to purchase and prepare meals due to a permanent disability may constitute a separate household provided such individual lived with others whose income did not exceed 165 percent of the poverty level. Some restrictions were placed on the participation of aliens, students, strikers, and residents of institutions. The income, resources, and deductible expenses of all persons in the food stamp household were counted to determine the household's eligibility for benefits.

The FSP included several provisions to encourage able-bodied participants to seek and hold jobs. With certain exceptions, physically and mentally fit food stamp participants had to register for and accept suitable employment. The exceptions to this work registration requirement included:

- o People under 16 or over 59 years of age.
- o People ages 16 and 17 who are not household heads or who are attending school.
- o Caretakers of dependent children less than 6 years old or incapacitated adults.
- o People who were working at least 30 hours per week.
- o People subject to the Aid to Family with Dependent Children (AFDC) program's work requirements.
- o People receiving unemployment compensation.
- o People who are physically or mentally disabled.
- o Participants in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation programs.
- o Students enrolled at least half-time.

As of April 1987 these work registrants were required to participate in State Employment and Training (E & T) programs. Exemptions were given to work registrants who were in their second or third trimester of pregnancy; were caring for a child

if adequate child care was not available; had participated in the FSP for 30 days or less; or were living in areas with high unemployment rates. Examples of activities that may be required of non-exempt work registrants included job search or job search training; workfare or work experience, or vocational or non-vocational education.

Furthermore, some applicant household heads were required to actively participate in job search while their applications were pending. Additionally, applicant households whose primary wage earner voluntarily quit a job without good cause were made ineligible for 90 days.

Benefit Computation

The maximum amount of food stamps a household could receive was equal to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) in June 1987, adjusted for household size. The maximum allotments are revised periodically to reflect changes in the cost of foods included in the TFP. The maximum allotment for a family of four in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia was \$290 per month during fiscal year 1988.⁴

The food stamp benefit issued to each household was based on the number of people in the household and the amount of net income available after subtracting the allowable deductions. Monthly benefits were equal to the maximum coupon allotment for that household less 30 percent of its net income. Benefits were prorated to the date of application during the initial month of participation. All one- and two-person households that qualified for the program, however, were guaranteed a minimum benefit of at least \$10 per month (except the initial month on the program).

Food Stamp Program Participation and Costs

Participation in the FSP declined slightly between fiscal years 1981 and 1982. By late 1982, participation had begun to increase, reaching an historic high level of 22.6 million persons in March 1983. This peak was followed by a relatively steady decline in the number of food stamp recipients. With the exception of seasonal increases during winter months, this decrease in participation continued through September 1988, at

⁴Separate plans were developed for selected outlying areas. The maximum coupon allotments for each household size in the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, and outlying areas are shown in appendix E.

which point 18.4 million persons were participating in the FSP (see fig. 1). This was the lowest level of participation in the 50 States and the District of Columbia since January 1980. Between fiscal years 1987 and 1988, the average monthly participation declined 2.1 percent from 19.1 to 18.7 million persons.

The maximum allotment for a family of four increased 7.0 percent, from \$271 to \$290, between the two fiscal years. Total Federal costs in fiscal year 1988 were \$12.3 billion, of which \$11.1 billion were issued in benefits. The amount of food stamp benefits issued in fiscal year 1988 increased by 0.6 percent, or \$642 million from fiscal year 1987. Total program costs, including State administrative expenses, increased nearly \$700 million from \$11.7 billion in fiscal year 1987 to \$12.4 billion in fiscal year 1988.

In the winter of 1988, the time period on which the remainder of this report focuses, average monthly program costs were about \$1.04 billion, of which \$938 million were in the form of benefits. Program data additionally indicate that per-person benefits in the winter of 1988 averaged \$49.87.

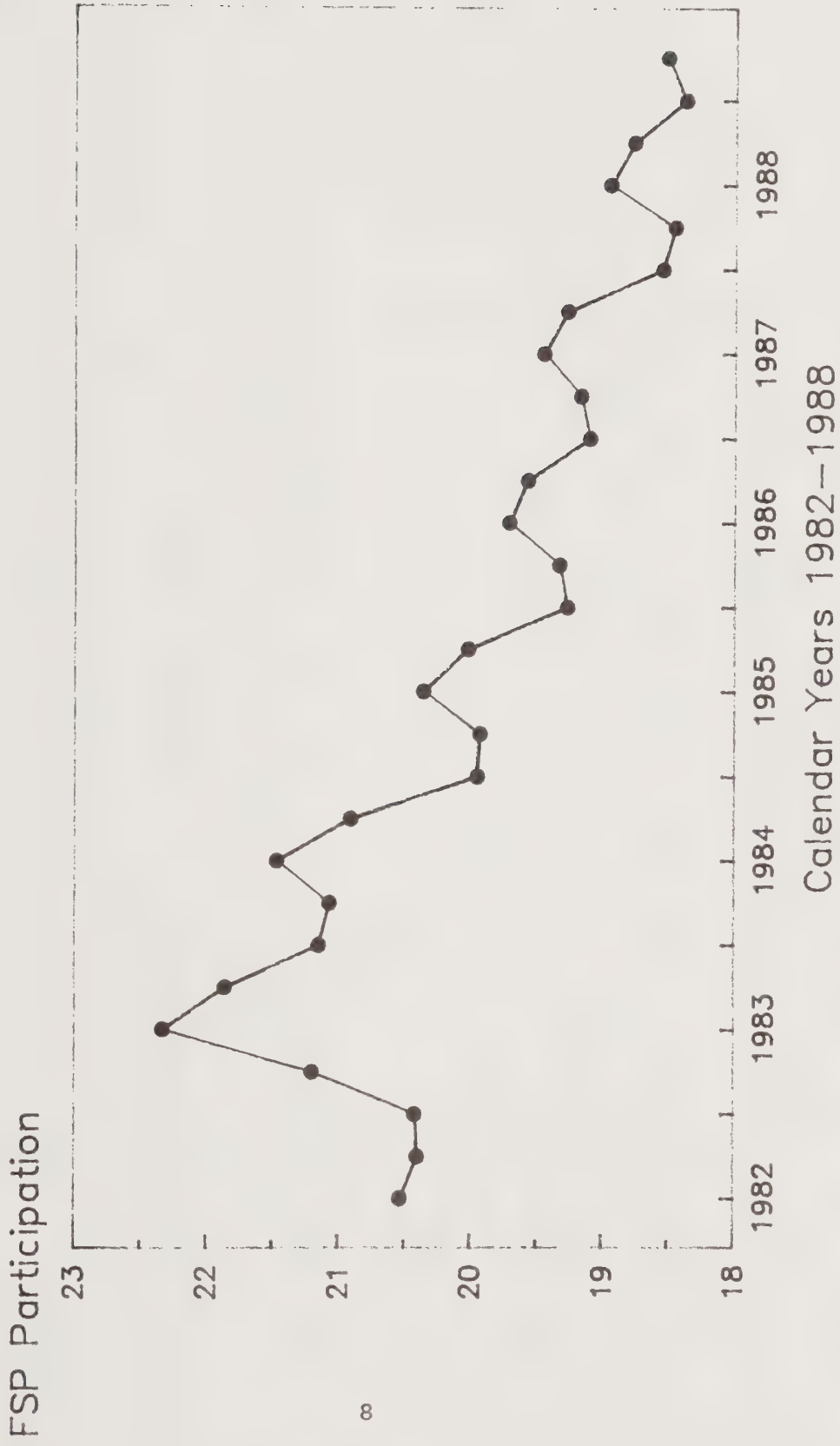
An Overview of Economic Developments through 1988

The recession, which began in 1981 and continued through early 1983, was followed by a very rapid, strong recovery beginning in late 1983 (see table 1). The unemployment rate declined from a high of 10.7 percent in November and December 1982 to 8.2 percent in December 1983. By the end of 1988, the unemployment rate had dropped to 5.2 percent (see fig. 2). The poverty rate increased from 1982 to 1983, but then declined from 15.2 percent in 1983 to 13.1 percent in 1988 (see table 1).

Inflation dropped significantly from 1982 to 1983 and continued to decline through 1986 (see table 1). The cost of the TFP for a family of four increased 3.5 percent from fiscal year 1987 to 1988 compared to an 11-percent increase from September 1979 to September 1980 and an average increase of 2.9 percent for 1982 through 1988.

Figure 1

FSP Average Monthly Participation by Individuals Calendar Years 1982-1988 by Quarter (In Millions)



Source: Food Stamp Program Keydata Reports

Note: Participation in Puerto Rico is excluded.

Table 1--Major economic indicators, calendar years 1982-1988
(average annual rates in percent)

Economic indicator	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Real GNP increase ^a	-2.5%	3.6%	6.8%	3.4%	2.7%	3.7%	4.4%
Productivity increase ^b	-0.7	2.4	2.6	2.0	2.3	1.2	1.7
Unemployment rate ^c	9.7	9.6	7.5	7.2	7.0	6.2	5.5
Inflation rate ^d	6.4	3.9	3.7	3.0	2.6	3.2	3.3
Interest rates ^e	13.8	12.0	12.7	11.4	9.0	9.4	9.7
Number of persons below 100 percent of poverty level (in thousands)	34,398	35,303	33,700	33,064	32,370	32,546	31,878
Percentage of total population	15.0%	15.2%	14.4%	14.0%	13.6%	13.4%	13.1%

^aPercent change from preceding period, table C-2.

^bPercent change in output per hour, nonfarm business sector, table C-47.

^cAll civilian workers, table C-39.

^dChange in implicit price deflator for gross national product, table C-3.

^eCorporate Aaa bond yield, table C-71.

Source for first five lines of data: Economic Report of the President, Washington, D.C., February 1990.

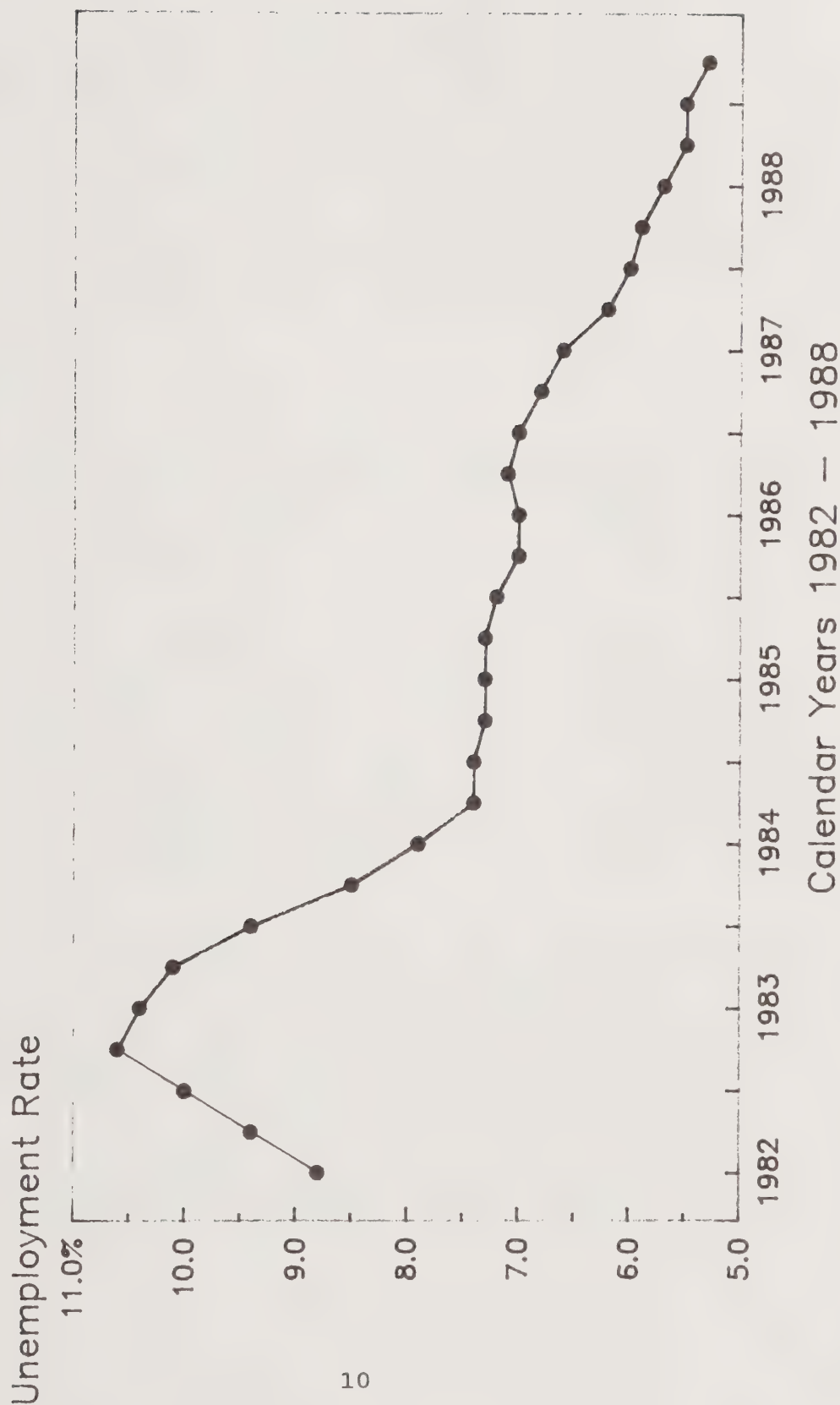
Source for last two lines of data: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 166, Money Income and Poverty Status in the United States: 1988 (Advance Data from the March 1989 Current Population Survey), Washington, D.C., 1989.

Figure 2

Unemployment Rate for Civilians

Calendar Years 1982 - 1988 by Quarter

Data Seasonally Adjusted and Averaged over Qtrs



Source: 1984, 1988, and 1990
Economic Reports of the President

CHAPTER 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS

Slightly over 18.8 million people in almost 7.1 million households received Food Stamp Program (FSP) benefits in the winter of 1988.¹ This chapter addresses basic questions about the characteristics of these households by looking at their income, deductions, benefits, assets, and household composition in some detail. The results presented here portray a cross-section of the program's caseload. Most of the information deals with characteristics of the entire food stamp household. In some cases, however, characteristics of individual participants are also presented. Additional information about each topic can be found in the detailed tabulations of appendix A.

Gross Monthly Income

The average gross income of all participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia was \$434 per month.² Six percent reported no gross income in the winter of 1988; about 52 percent reported a monthly income of less than \$400 (see fig. 3). Only 22 percent had monthly gross income of \$600 or more.

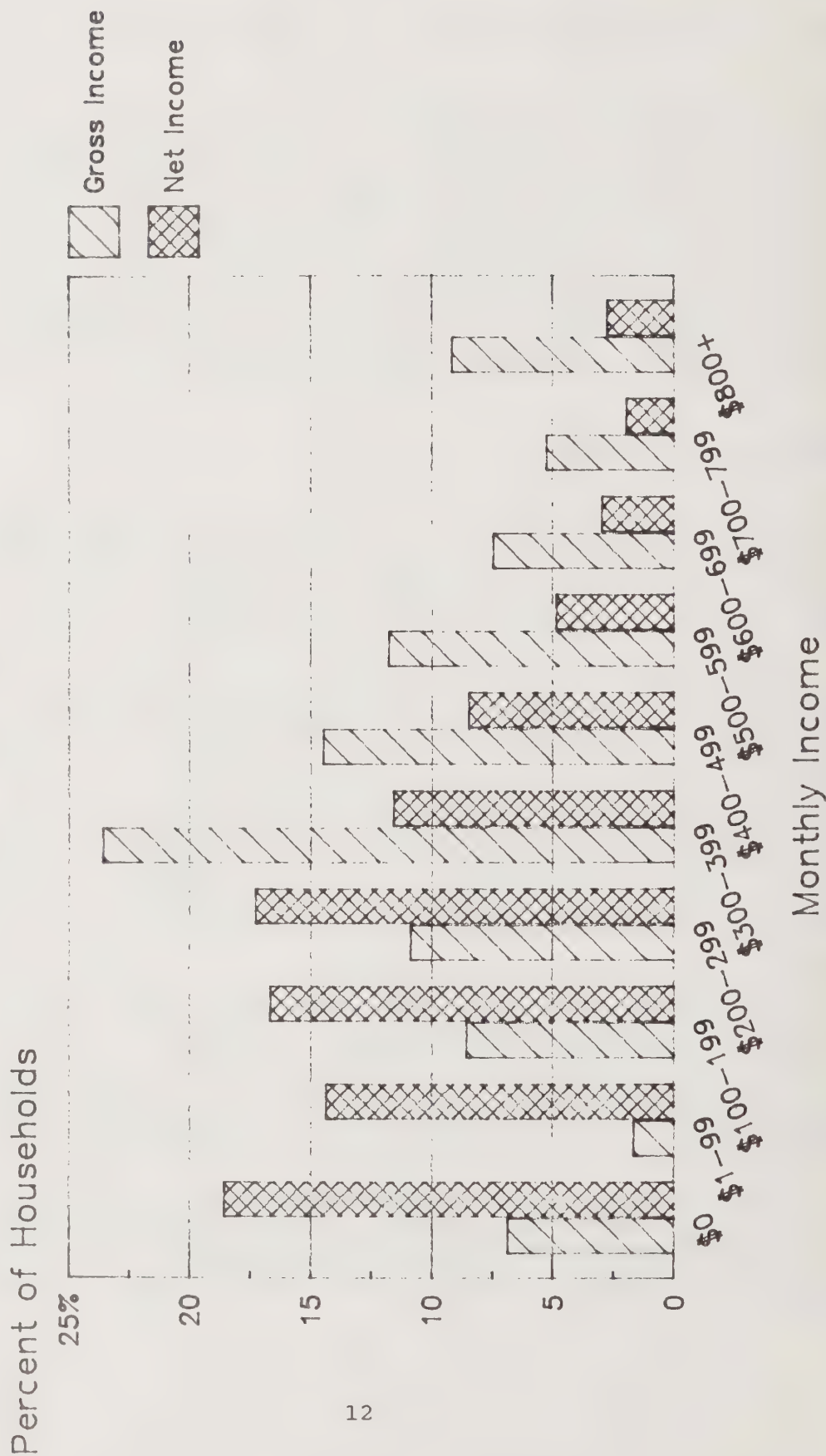
The distribution of gross income was heavily influenced by the large number of small households in the program. Almost 49 percent of all the households with income below \$400 were single-person households. About 80 percent of all single-person households had an income below \$400, compared to just 20 percent of those with at least six members. There were several reasons for this pattern. The food stamp income eligibility limits vary with household size, making small households ineligible at lower incomes than large households. Transfer payments from other welfare programs also tend to increase with household size.

¹The information reported here and in appendix A is limited to winter 1988 food stamp participants in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. There were an additional 32,000 participants in Guam and the Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico, which until July 1982 had participated in the FSP, served participants through its Nutritional Assistance Program, and the Northern Mariana Islands also participated in a block grant program.

²It should be noted that the statistics reported in this and subsequent sections are based on information recorded in food stamp casefiles by State eligibility workers. These figures have not been corrected for possible underreporting or nonreporting of income.

Figure 3

Distribution of Food Stamp Households by Monthly Gross and Net Incomes Winter 1988



Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Program
Quality Control Sample

One way to account for the influence of household size on gross income is to examine the status of food stamp households with respect to the official definition of poverty.³ As shown in table 2, about 92 percent of all food stamp households had total income that was less than or equal to the poverty line. This includes about 36 percent who had total income at or below half the poverty guidelines.

Net Monthly Income

A household's net income was determined by subtracting the standard, earned income, dependent care, medical, and excess shelter expense from its gross monthly income. The level of net income then determined the household's eligibility and monthly benefit. Average net income was \$243 per month in the winter of 1988. Nearly 19 percent of all households had no net income after subtracting the allowable deductions from their gross income. These households received the maximum coupon allotment. Over two out of three participating households had net income less than \$300 per month and over 92 percent had net income under \$600 a month.

Sources of Income

As table 3 shows, a large number of food stamp households also received cash benefits from at least one of the major income transfer programs (Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Social Security, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)). At the same time, there was a substantial number of households that supplemented limited earnings with food stamp benefits. About

³As noted above, the definition of poverty is adjusted for household size. The poverty guidelines used by the FSP in the winter of 1988 are shown in appendix B. A word of caution is in order when comparisons are made to the poverty population defined by the Bureau of the Census. Census counts households as poor if their annual cash income falls below the poverty guidelines. In contrast, households were eligible for food stamps if their monthly cash income fell below the program's income limits. Since household income may vary from month to month, a household may be eligible for food stamps in one month, but ineligible the next. Therefore, some households eligible for food stamps for one or more months may have annual incomes above the poverty line. On the other hand, households with assets worth more than the food stamp asset limit could be ineligible for food stamps in any month, although their monthly and annual incomes are well below the poverty guideline.

Table 2--Poverty status of food stamp households, winter 1988

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Percent of all households	Cumulative percent ^a
50% or less	36.3	36.3
51 to 100	55.7	92.0
101 to 130	7.6	99.6
131 or more	0.4	100.0
Number of households (in thousands)	7,071	

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 3--Major sources of income among food stamp households,
winter 1988
(numbers in thousands)

Source of income	Food stamp households	
	Number	Percent ^a
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	2,785	39.4
Earnings ^b	1,458	20.6
Social Security and Railroad Retirement	1,451	20.5
Supplemental Security Income	1,471	20.8
Total	7,071	

^aThe sums of individual income sources do not add to totals because households can receive income from more than one source.

^bIncludes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

80 percent of all households had income from at least one of these sources.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)

Over 39 percent of all food stamp households received AFDC benefits. On average, these households supplemented \$102 from other sources with a \$385 AFDC payment, for a total gross income of \$487 per month. Seventy percent of these households, however, had no income other than the AFDC grant.

Earned Income

Almost 21 percent of all food stamp households reported earned income from some source. Households with earned income were generally larger and had substantially higher income than nonearners. The average household size for those with earnings was 3.7 people compared to 2.4 people for other households. For these households, average earnings amounted to \$517 out of an average gross income of \$651 per month compared to \$378 for other households. Fifty-seven percent of households with earned income reported no income other than earnings.

Social Security and Railroad Retirement

Nearly 21 percent of all food stamp households received income from Railroad Retirement and Survivors' and Disability Insurance (also called Social Security) benefits averaging about \$338 per month. About 28 percent of these households had no other source of income; about 53 percent also received Federal Supplemental Security Income payments.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

About 21 percent of all food stamp households received SSI payments. The average Federal SSI benefit was \$241 per month. This was the only source of income for about 27 percent of these households. About 52 percent received SSI in combination with Social Security benefits.

Deductions From Gross Income

The Food Stamp Act provides for deductions from gross income when determining household eligibility and benefits. In the winter of 1988, these included a standard deduction for all households, earned income and dependent care deductions for employed households, a medical deduction for the elderly and disabled, and an excess shelter expense deduction. Each of the dependent care and excess shelter deductions had limits on the size of the deduction available to households. Households could claim up to

a maximum of \$160 for the dependent care deduction. The excess shelter deduction limit was \$152 for households certified before October 1, 1987 and \$164 for other households, with elderly and disabled households exempted from either limit.

Almost 80 percent of all food stamp households claimed at least one deduction other than the standard. The average deduction to which households were entitled, including the value of the standard, was \$213 per month. The average entitlement for all deductions other than the standard was \$110 per month.

A distinction should be made between a household's deduction entitlement and the amount actually used to compute food stamp benefits. The entitlement is the deduction that a household would receive on the basis of its earned income, dependent care costs, shelter costs, and medical expenses if the total of these allowable deductions was less than its gross income. Because net income cannot be less than zero, households with total deductions greater than their gross income could only claim a portion of their deduction entitlement. The value of the deductions actually used in computing household benefits in the winter of 1988, that is, the difference between average gross and average net income, was \$192, or 90 percent of the average total deduction entitlement of food stamp households.

The frequency with which the different deductions were claimed varied considerably. The excess shelter deduction was claimed by over 71 percent of all participating households. The average value of the shelter deduction among those who claimed it was \$119 per month. Twenty-three percent of all food stamp households (and 33 percent of those claiming the excess shelter deduction) were affected by the cap placed on the value of the excess shelter deduction. Households with elderly or disabled members are not subject to the cap. As a result, 6 percent of all food stamp households (19 percent of the elderly households) claimed a deduction above the cap. The average shelter deduction among these exempted households was \$233 per month.

Twenty-one percent of all food stamp households claimed the earned income deduction, averaging \$104 per month. In contrast, both the dependent care and medical deductions were used relatively infrequently. For those who were able to claim one or the other, however, they provided a substantial deduction from gross income. The dependent care deduction was claimed by about 2.5 percent of all participating households with an average claim of \$97 among those claiming the deduction. The medical deduction was claimed by about 2.6 percent of all participating households. The average claim among those with this deduction was \$69.

Food Stamp Benefits

The average winter monthly food stamp benefit reported in this survey was \$130 per household (or about \$48.09 per person).⁴ Seven percent of the households received the minimum \$10 benefit guaranteed to one- and two-person households.

Targeting Benefits to the Most Needy

The FSP is designed to target benefits to those households most in need. Poorer households relative to the poverty guideline receive larger benefits than households with more income. Table 4 demonstrates the extent of benefit targeting in the program in the winter of 1988. Only 36 percent of all households had income at 50 percent or less of the poverty guideline, yet these households received almost 54 percent of all food stamp benefits issued. In contrast, many more households (56 percent) had income between 51 and 100 percent of the poverty guideline but received only 43 percent of the benefits.

Effect on Poverty Status

The previous discussion of gross income levels showed that food stamp participants generally fell well below the poverty line. The official definition of poverty is based on the cash income of household members before taxes and after cash transfer payments, but it does not include the value of in-kind benefits such as food stamps. If the FSP is viewed in the general context of income maintenance programs, however, it can be argued that food stamp benefits, which increase a household's total resources, should be included in any measurement of a household's poverty status. In this way, the effect of food stamp benefits in reducing the number of households in poverty can also be measured. Table 5 compares the poverty status of participating households before the transfer of food stamp benefits, based on cash income only, and after the transfer, counting the value of food stamps received along with cash income.⁵

By counting food stamp benefits along with cash income, the

⁴In comparison to the sample survey data reported here, Food Stamp Program administrative data for 1988 show an average winter monthly benefit of \$133.14 per household and \$49.87 per person.

⁵This comparison assumes that program participants value their food stamp benefits at face value. For a general discussion of this and related issues, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Technical Paper No. 50, "Alternative Methods for Valuing Selected In-Kind Transfer Benefits and Measuring Their Effect on Poverty," Washington, DC, 1982.

Table 4--Distribution of households and benefits by poverty line,
winter 1988

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Percent of all households	Percent of all benefits
25% or less	13.7	21.4
26 - 50	22.6	32.4
51 - 75	27.0	28.4
76 - 100	28.8	14.9
101 - 125	7.0	2.7
126 - 130	0.6	0.2
131 or more	0.4	0.0
Total ^a	100.0	100.0

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 5--Effect of food stamp benefits on poverty status of
food stamp households, winter 1988

Income as a percent of poverty	Distribution of households in relation to poverty line ^a		Change in percentage points
	Based on cash only	Based on cash and food stamps	
50% or less	36%	13%	-23
51 to 100	56	73	+17
101 or more	8	14	+ 6
Number of households (in thousands)	7,071	7,071	

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

percentage of food stamp households below the poverty line fell from 92 percent to 86 percent. In other words, 6 percent of the participating households were moved above the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit. Program benefits had an even greater effect on the poorest households; 23 percent of the participating households were moved to at least half of the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit. The proportion of food stamp households above the poverty line increased (from 8 to 14 percent) when food stamp benefits were counted, while the proportion remaining below half of the poverty line was reduced by almost two-thirds (from 36 to 13 percent).

Assets

The winter 1988 survey collected limited information on the assets of participating households. Seventy-six percent of all food stamp households had no assets counted toward the resource limit. Another 18 percent had countable assets of \$500 or less. The remaining 5 percent of households had countable assets of between \$501 and \$3,000.

Households with elderly members had somewhat higher asset levels, but only 5 percent of these households had \$1,000 or more in countable resources in spite of a higher resource limit (\$3,000 for each household compared to \$2,000 for other households). Across all households, countable assets averaged \$82 in the winter of 1988, while households with elderly members had an average of \$184.

Caseload Composition

The average size of a food stamp household was about 2.7 persons in the winter of 1988, but there was considerable variation among different household types. The average for households with school-age children, for example, was 3.9 persons. Households with children of any age contained an average of 3.6 persons. Households with earned income had an average of 3.7 persons. Households with one or more elderly members contained an average of only 1.5 persons. Over one-half (53 percent) of all food stamp households contained only one or two people.

The heads of food stamp households were predominantly female (74 percent). Forty-seven percent were white, 36 percent black, and nearly 13 percent were of Hispanic origin.

The age distribution of all people receiving food stamps reflects the large percentage (61 percent) of food stamp households with children and the larger average size of these households. Nearly

51 percent of all food stamp participants were children under age 18. Another 8 percent were 60 years or older. Thus, about 60 percent of all food stamp participants were either young or old.

Households With Children

Over 82 percent of all food stamp benefits in the winter of 1988 were issued to households with children, who comprised over 61 percent of all participating households. These households were predominantly headed by women (81 percent). About 69 percent of female-headed households with children received AFDC.

Households with children were typically larger, and had higher total income but lower per-person income, than households without children. The average size of a household with children was 3.7 persons, compared to an average of 1.2 persons in households without children. The average gross income among households with children was \$503 per month (\$140 per person), compared to \$326 per month (\$272 per person) in those without children. Households with children received an average food stamp benefit of \$174 per month (\$48 per person) while those without children received \$59 per month (\$49 per person).

Households With Elderly

Households with elderly members accounted for 20 percent of the total food stamp caseload in the winter of 1988, but since those households were smaller on average (1.5 compared to 3.0 persons) and had relatively higher net income, they received only 8 percent of all benefits issued that period. Ninety-one percent of all elderly participants either lived by themselves or with one other person.

After adjusting for the differences in household size, households with elderly members had relatively higher income than those without elderly members. Average gross income per person among households with elderly members was \$283 versus \$145 per month for households without elderly members.

Similarly, the average net income of \$160 per person in elderly households was almost double the \$81 per person found in nonelderly households. Thus, average benefits per person were 30 percent less among the elderly--\$34 versus \$50 per month. About 24 percent of the households with elderly members received the minimum \$10 benefit.

Households With Earned Income

Nearly 21 percent of all food stamp households reported earned income in the winter of 1988. They received a proportionate

share (24 percent) of the benefits issued that period.

Nearly 9 percent of all household heads were employed in full-time jobs (that is, working at least 30 hours per week). Another 5 percent were working part time, and less than 1 percent were self-employed.

Households with earned income were generally larger than average (3.7 compared to 2.4 persons) and somewhat more likely to include children (83 percent compared to 56 percent). Gross incomes for these households were substantially larger than those of households without earnings (\$651 versus \$378). They received an average per-capita benefit of about \$41, compared to \$52 among households without earned income.

Work Registration

Able-bodied food stamp participants age 18 to 59 were required to register for work and accept employment if offered. Table 6 shows that 54 percent of all adult participants under the age of 60 were either employed full-time or met the work registration requirements of the Food Stamp, AFDC, or unemployment insurance (UI) Programs.

Of all food stamp participants, approximately 62 percent were exempted from work requirements on the basis of their age or disability. This reflects the large number of children and elderly participants in the FSP. Twenty-eight percent of all the adults in the program and 11 percent of all participants were exempted from work registration because they were responsible for the care of young children or incapacitated adults, the second most frequent kind of exemption. Nearly 8 percent of all food stamp participants were registered for work.

Table 6--Work registration status of food stamp participants, winter 1988

Work registration status	Percentage of nonelderly adult participants ^a (18-59 years)	Percentage of all participants ^a
<u>Meeting work requirement:</u>		
Registered for work	19.6	8.0
<u>Exempted from food stamp registration:</u>		
Employed full time	11.0	4.5
AFDC work program participants	22.2	9.3
UI recipients	1.5	0.6
<u>Exempted from work requirement:</u>		
Caretakers of children and incapacitated adults	28.3	11.6
Residents of drug addiction/alcohol treatment center	0.3	0.1
Students	2.4	2.6
Less than 18, over 60, or disabled ^b	14.6	63.2
Number of participants (in thousands)	7,484	18,685

^aPercent of those participants with known work registration status.

^bFor adults, the figure includes disabled participants only.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

CHAPTER 3: CHANGES IN FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

This chapter describes some of the seasonal changes in the composition and circumstances of the food stamp caseload from summer to winter by comparing survey results from summer 1987 (July and August 1987) and winter 1988 (January and February 1988). Because this report covers winter food stamp caseload characteristics and most of the prior characteristics reports covered summer months, it provides an opportunity to examine changes caused by seasonal effects. Normally, program participation rises during the winter months. This seasonal increase could potentially alter the caseload composition.

Several factors should be considered when interpreting the results presented here. Since this analysis is based on a cross-sectional sample, it cannot determine whether differences in caseload characteristics are because of changes in the circumstances of new participants, changes in the circumstances of continuing participants, or some combination of both. Moreover, a cross-sectional analysis cannot disaggregate the separate impacts of seasonality, changes in the economy, food stamp legislation, changes in other related social programs, or random sampling variations. A longitudinal sample, which tracks characteristics of the same households over time, is a better measure of these effects as well as changes in the behavior of individual participants.

Changes in Income

The income of food stamp households increased both in nominal and real terms. The average monthly gross income increased from \$426 per household in summer 1987 to \$434 in winter 1988 (see table 7), an increase of 0.5 percent even after adjusting for inflation. Real net income was unchanged. On a per person basis the real increase in gross income was nearly 2 percent and in net income was just over 1 percent. Moreover, as table 8 shows, the proportion of those with gross incomes less than or equal to half the poverty level fell from 39 percent to just over 36 percent, while the proportion of those with incomes exceeding the poverty level increased from 6 percent to 8 percent. Because the poverty line varies by household size and is adjusted annually to reflect cost of living changes, this standard measures real income changes.

Changes in Deductions

Households took larger deductions in winter 1988, with the nominal average total increasing from \$205 to \$213 between summer and winter (see table 9). However, the percentage of the potential or entitlement deduction that was claimed in the

Table 7--Average nominal and real monthly income of food stamp participants, summer 1987 and winter 1988

	Summer 1987	Winter 1988		Percentage change	
		Nominal	Real ^a	Nominal	Real ^a
<u>Average gross income</u>					
Per household	\$426	\$434	\$428	+1.9	+0.5
Per person	156	161	159	+3.2	+1.9
<u>Average net income</u>					
Per household	239	243	239	+1.7	0
Per person	88	90	89	+2.3	+1.1

^aAdjusted by change in CPI-U for all items between summer 1987 and winter 1988 (1.5%).

Source: Summer 1987, Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 8--Comparison of poverty status of participating households, summer 1987 and winter 1988 (percent of all households)^a

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Summer 1987	Winter 1988
50% or less	39.0%	36.3%
51 - 100	54.8	55.8
101 - 150	5.8	7.9
151 or more	0.4	0.1
Number of households (in thousands)	6,881	7,071

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987, Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 9--Frequency and value of deductions from gross income,
summer 1987 and winter 1988

Type of deduction	Percent of households with deduction ^a		Average value of deduction ^b		
	Summer 1987	Winter 1988	Summer 1987	Winter 1988	Percent Change
Standard	100	100	\$99	\$102	+3.0
Earned income	20	21	101	104	+3.0
Dependent care	2	3	100	97	-3.1
Excess shelter	71	71	114	119	+4.4
Medical	3	3	77	69	-11.6
Total deduction					
Excluding standard	79	79	106	110	+3.8
Including standard	100	100	205	213	+3.9
Number of households (in thousands)	6,881	7,071			

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

^bFor households claiming the deduction.

Source: Summer 1987 and winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

winter of 1988 was unchanged at 90 percent¹. The percentage of food stamp households claiming each deduction was virtually unchanged.

Most changes in the average value of deductions taken were small. However, the excess shelter deduction increased from \$114 to \$119, an increase of over 4 percent. It is unclear whether this increase was caused by the increase in the shelter deduction cap, higher winter fuel costs, or caseload composition changes. The average medical deduction taken also fell significantly, from \$79 to \$69, a drop of nearly 12 percent.

Changes in Benefits

Average per-capita benefits are a function of net income and the maximum food stamp allotment. Since net income is calculated by subtracting allowable deductions from gross income, changes in average gross income or deductions will affect average benefits. The average monthly benefit increased from \$120 in summer 1987 to \$130 in winter 1988. Even after adjusting for inflation, this represented a 7 percent increase. Also, a smaller proportion of households received benefits under \$50, while a larger proportion of households received benefits exceeding \$150 (see table 10).

Table 11 presents the sources of change in average food stamp benefits. Average gross and net incomes, deductions, and benefits adjusted by the change in the CPI for all items from summer 1987 and winter 1988 are provided. The table shows that the modest real increases in gross income and total deductions canceled each other, leaving real net income unchanged. However, the real value of the maximum coupon allotment increased substantially, driving up the average household benefit.

Changes in Household Composition

The number of food stamp households rose by nearly 200,000 from summer 1987 to winter 1988, following normal historical patterns. The caseload demographics remained stable. As table 12 illustrates, households with children remained at 61 percent of total households, and households with elderly members also remained at 20 percent. Households with earners rose slightly from 20 percent to nearly 21 percent of all food stamp households.

¹It is important to recall the distinction between the deduction to which a household was entitled and the deduction actually used (or claimed) to compute food stamp benefits. The actual average amount households could claim, given their gross income, rose slightly from \$187 in summer 1987 to \$192 in winter 1988. The average deduction to which households were entitled rose from \$205 to \$213.

Table 10--Distribution of participating households by amount of
monthly food stamp benefit, summer 1987 and winter 1988

Average monthly food stamp benefit	Nominal benefits ^a		Real benefits ^b
	Summer 1987	Winter 1988	Winter 1988
\$50 or less	23%	21%	21%
51 to 100	27	27	27
101 to 150	20	15	16
151 to 200	13	16	15
201 or more	17	21	21
Number of households (in thousands)	6,881	7,071	7,071
Mean benefit	\$120	\$130	\$128

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

^bBenefit adjusted by change in CPI-U for food at home between summer 1987 and winter 1988 (1.7%).

Source: Summer 1987, Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 11--Sources of change in average food stamp benefits
summer 1987 and winter 1988

	Nominal values			Real values ^a	
	Summer 1987	Winter 1988	Percentage Change	Winter 1988	Percentage Change
Average gross income	\$426	\$434	+1.9	\$427	+0.2
Average total deduction	205	213	+3.9	209	+1.9
Average net income	239	243	+1.7	239	0
Average household benefit	120	130	+8.3	128	+6.7
Maximum coupon allotment (for family of four)	271	290	+7.0	285	+5.2
Consumer Price Index					
All items	114.10	115.85	+1.5		
Food at home	112.10	114.00	+1.7		

^aReal values are in constant summer 1987 dollars adjusted by changes in the CPI-U for food at home between summer 1987 and winter 1988 (1.7%).

Source: Summer 1987, Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 12--Changes in food stamp caseload composition,
summer 1987 and winter 1988
(numbers in thousands)

Major household type	Distribution of households			
	Summer 1987		Winter 1988	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Families with children	4,208	61.2	4,331	61.3
Households with elderly	1,408	20.5	1,433	20.3
Households with earners	1,389	20.2	1,458	20.6
Total ^a	6,881		7,071	

^aPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1987 and winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Appendix A--Detailed Tables for the 50 States and the District of Columbia

In the pages that follow, detailed tabulations of the characteristics of food stamp households and participants are presented. These tables are roughly ordered to provide information on the following topics:

- o Average amounts and sources of income, both gross and net.
- o Frequency and average amount of deductions from gross income.
- o Average amount of monthly food stamp benefits and countable resources.
- o Certification status of participating households.
- o Age, race, sex, and household size of food stamp participants and households.
- o Employment and work registration status of food stamp participants and household heads.
- o Summary statistics for households with earned income, with elderly members, with disabled members, with children, with school-age children, and with AFDC income.
- o Summary comparisons of survey results from 1980 through 1988.

The reference population for each table, unless otherwise noted, is the food stamp caseload in the 50 States and the District of Columbia in the winter of 1988.¹

¹Winter 1988 refers to the average of data for January and February 1988. Household samples were taken from both January and February to maintain an adequate sample size given reduced annual State sample sizes.

List of Appendix Tables

o Summary of 1988 Characteristics

A- 1--Aggregate winter 1988 participation totals	39
A- 2--Average values of selected national caseload characteristics	40
A- 3--Number and percentage of households with selected characteristics	41

o Income: Average Amounts and Sources of Income, Both Gross and Net

A- 4--Distribution of participating households by gross and net monthly income	42
A- 5--Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income and household size	43
A- 6--Distribution of participating households by net monthly income and household size	44
A- 7--Distribution of participating households by income source	45
A- 8--Number of households, average income, and average benefit by selected income sources	46
A- 9--Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children	47
A-10--Distribution of participating households by net monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children	48

o Deductions: Frequency and Average Amount from Gross Income

A-11--Number of participating households claiming deductions and value of deductions claimed	49
A-12--Distribution of participating households by amount of total deduction	50
A-13--Average total deduction for all households by gross monthly income and household size	51
A-14--Number of participating households claiming earned income deduction and value of deduction claimed . .	52

A-15--Distribution of participating households by amount of earned income deduction	53
A-16--Number of participating households claiming dependent care deduction and value of deduction claimed . . .	54
A-17--Distribution of participating households by amount of dependent care deduction	55
A-18--Number of participating households claiming excess shelter deduction and value of deduction claimed . .	56
A-19--Distribution of participating households by amount of excess shelter deduction	57
A-20--Distribution of participating households by the value of shelter deduction	58
A-21--Number of participating households claiming medical deduction and value of deduction claimed	59
A-22--Distribution of participating households by amount of medical deduction	60
o <u>Benefits and Resources:</u> Average Amount of Monthly Food Stamp Benefits	
A-23--Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit	61
A-24--Average monthly food stamp benefit by gross monthly income and household size	62
A-25--Distribution of participating households by total countable resources for all households and households with elderly or disabled	63
o <u>Certification:</u> Distribution of Participating Households	
A-26--Distribution of participating households by type of most recent action	64
A-27--Comparison of households with and without expedited service by presence of gross and net monthly income	65
A-28--Distribution of participating households by length of certification period	66

o	<u>Age, Sex, Race, and Household Size:</u>	Food Stamp Participants and Households	
	A-29--Distribution of participating households by household size		67
	A-30--Sex- and age-related characteristics of participating households		68
	A-31--Distribution of participating households by household size, number of elderly, number of children, and number of school-age children		69
	A-32--Distribution of participants by age and sex		70
	A-33--Age-related characteristics of participants		71
	A-34--Distribution of participating households by race or ethnic origin of household head		72
	A-35--Distribution of participating households by selected characteristics of household members		73
o	<u>Employment and Work Registration:</u>	Food Stamp Participants and Household Heads	
	A-36--Distribution of participating households by employment status of household head		74
	A-37--Distribution of participating households by work registration status of household head		75
	A-38--Distribution of participants by work registration status		76
o	<u>Earned Income:</u>	Summary Statistics	
	A-39--Distribution of households and benefits for households with and without earned income		77
	A-40--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without earned income		78
	A-41--Number and percentage of households with and without earned income for selected characteristics		79
	A-42--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without earned income		80

o Elderly: Summary Statistics

A-43--Distribution of households and benefits for households with and without elderly	81
A-44--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without elderly	82
A-45--Number and percentage of households with and without elderly for selected characteristics	83
A-46--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without elderly	84

o Disabled: Summary Statistics

A-47--Distribution of households and benefits for households with and without disabled	85
A-48--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without disabled	86
A-49--Number and percentage of households with and without disabled for selected characteristics . . .	87
A-50--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without disabled	88

o Children: Summary Statistics

A-51--Distribution of households and benefits for households with children, school-age children, and no children	89
A-52--Average value of selected characteristics for households with children, school-age children, and no children	90
A-53--Number and percentage of households with children, school-age children, and no children for selected characteristics	91
A-54--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with children, school-age children, and no children	92

o AFDC: Summary Statistics

A-55--Distribution of households and benefits for
households with and without AFDC income93

A-56--Average value of selected characteristics for
households with and without AFDC income94

A-57--Number and percentage of households with and
without AFDC income for selected characteristics . . .95

A-58--Comparison of distribution of participating
households on selected characteristics for
households with and without AFDC income96

o Survey Comparisons: 1980 through 1988

A-59--Comparison of average value of selected
characteristics for August 1980 - winter 198897

A-60--Comparison of percentage of households with
selected characteristics for August 1980 -
winter 1988 98

Appendix Table A-1--Aggregate winter 1988 participation totals

Area	Number of households (thousands)	Number of people (thousands)	Value of benefits (thousands)
United States	7,070	18,786	\$935,826
Continental U.S.	7,030	18,678	\$927,061
Alaska and Hawaii	40	108	\$8,765
Outlying Areas ^a	8	32	\$2,504
Total	7,079	18,818	\$938,330

^a Includes participants in Guam and the Virgin Islands

Source: Food Stamp Program Integrated Information System

Appendix Table A-2--Average values of selected national
caseload characteristics

	All households
Gross monthly income (dollars)	434
Net monthly income (dollars)	243
Total deduction ^a (dollars)	213
Countable resources (dollars)	82
Monthly benefit (dollars)	130
Household size (persons)	2.7
Certification period (months)	9.6

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-3--Number and percentage of households
with selected characteristics

	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households ^a
Zero gross income	490	6.9
Zero net income	1,318	18.6
Minimum benefit ^b	477	6.7
Elderly ^c	1,433	20.3
Children ^d	4,331	61.3
School-age children ^e	3,314	46.9
Disabled ^f	612	8.7

^aPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- or two-person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^fHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-4--Distribution of participating households by
gross and net monthly income

Amount of monthly income	Gross income		Net income	
	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	490	6.9	1,318	18.6
\$1-99	123	1.7	1,018	14.4
100-199	605	8.6	1,184	16.7
200-299	770	10.9	1,227	17.3
300-399	1,672	23.6	819	11.6
400-499	1,026	14.5	604	8.5
500-599	834	11.8	348	4.9
600-699	528	7.5	215	3.0
700-799	372	5.3	142	2.0
800-899	246	3.5	79	1.1
900-999	155	2.2	63	0.9
1000+	249	3.5	56	0.8
Total ^a	7,071	100.0	7,071	100.0

Average gross income = \$434

Average net income = \$243

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-5--Distribution of participating households by
gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Number of households ^a (thousands)	Percent of all households ^a
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	235	100	73	50	15	7	8	3	490	6.9
\$1-99	68	21	16	15	2	--	1	1	123	1.7
100-199	302	117	116	45	15	3	4	3	605	8.6
200-299	232	266	140	66	34	21	5	6	770	10.9
300-399	956	260	231	146	46	17	10	6	1,672	23.6
400-499	351	281	179	128	51	27	7	4	1,026	14.5
500-599	93	309	222	111	50	28	7	14	834	11.8
600-699	8	93	187	134	73	18	9	6	528	7.5
700-799	2	56	78	118	77	32	4	5	372	5.3
800-899	0	11	54	64	75	19	16	6	246	3.5
900-999	--	4	29	40	35	35	4	7	155	2.2
1000+	1	1	3	51	62	55	39	38	249	3.5
Number of households ^a	2,248	1,519	1,326	967	535	261	115	99	7,071	100.0
Percent of all households ^a	31.8	21.5	18.8	13.7	7.6	3.7	1.6	1.4	100.0	
Average gross income	\$295	\$383	\$447	\$534	\$656	\$733	\$782	\$864	\$434	

^aDue to rounding, the sum of the individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-6--Distribution of participating households by
net monthly income and household size

Net monthly income	Household size								Number of households ^a (thousands)	Percent of all households ^a
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	650	280	195	117	37	16	14	8	1,318	18.6
\$1-99	410	262	217	69	35	19	1	4	1,018	14.4
100-199	483	290	184	143	49	22	6	7	1,184	16.7
200-299	515	266	223	132	52	20	15	6	1,227	17.3
300-399	154	206	203	146	65	24	8	13	819	11.6
400-499	33	154	162	141	76	25	10	4	604	8.5
500-599	2	45	103	89	67	25	11	6	348	4.9
600-699	1	12	26	68	68	28	5	6	215	3.0
700-799	--	3	13	38	45	28	9	7	142	2.0
800-899	--	1	--	19	23	23	7	6	79	1.1
900-999	1	--	--	7	15	16	15	10	63	0.9
1000+	--	0	--	--	3	15	16	22	56	0.8
Number of households ^a	2,248	1,519	1,326	967	535	261	115	99	7,071	100.0
Percent of all households ^a	31.8	21.5	18.8	13.7	7.6	3.7	1.6	1.4	100.0	
Average net income	\$129	\$195	\$242	\$325	\$430	\$512	\$578	\$652	\$243	

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-7--Distribution of participating households by income source

Amount of monthly income from specified source	Earned income ^a		Social Security		AFDC or General Assistance		SSI		Other income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	5,613	79.4	5,619	79.5	3,528	49.9	5,600	79.2	6,017	85.1
\$1-99	158	2.2	22	0.3	191	2.7	332	4.7	411	5.8
100-199	150	2.1	182	2.6	716	10.1	316	4.5	218	3.1
200-299	132	1.9	413	5.8	708	10.0	133	1.9	132	1.9
300-399	158	2.2	415	5.9	676	9.6	587	8.3	103	1.5
400-499	144	2.0	244	3.5	478	6.8	53	0.7	68	1.0
500-599	167	2.4	115	1.6	346	4.9	26	0.4	48	0.7
600-699	133	1.9	31	0.4	223	3.2	14	0.2	37	0.5
700-799	118	1.7	19	0.3	112	1.6	8	0.1	18	0.3
800-899	96	1.4	3	0.0	54	0.8	0	0.0	9	0.1
900-999	70	1.0	6	0.1	17	0.2	--	--	5	0.1
1000+	132	1.9	2	0.0	22	0.3	1	0.0	6	0.1
Number of households ^b	7,071	100.0	7,071	100.0	7,071	100.0	7,071	100.0	7,071	100.0
Households with income	1,458	20.6	1,451	20.5	3,543	50.1	1,471	20.8	1,054	14.9
Average amount of income ^c	\$517		\$338		\$351		\$241		\$215	
Average gross income ^c	\$651		\$464		\$446		\$467		\$499	

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

^cFor households with income from specified source.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-8--Number of households, average income, and average benefit by selected income sources

Income source	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households	Average income amount ^a		Average benefit ^a
			Gross	From source	
Earned income:					
Wages and salaries	1,352	19.1	\$669	\$535	\$150
Self-employment	106	1.5	462	239	180
Earned income tax credit	0	0.0	0	0	0
Other earned income	20	0.3	502	248	206
Unearned income:					
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)	2,785	39.4	487	385	165
Household General Assistance	799	11.3	313	216	105
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	1,471	20.8	467	241	63
Social Security	1,451	20.5	464	338	61
Household unemployment income	162	2.3	623	406	160
Veterans' benefits	183	2.6	496	223	64
Workers' compensation	40	0.6	663	450	125
Other government benefits	112	1.6	421	157	142
Household contributions	215	3.0	437	158	176
Household deemed income	2	0.0	208	88	157
Household loans	63	0.9	565	186	138
Other unearned income	354	5.0	481	109	106
No income	490	6.9	0	0	165
Total ^b	7,071	100.0	434		130

^aAverage over households with income from specified source.

^bThe sums of individual income sources do not add to totals because households can receive income from more than one source.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-9--Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children

Gross income as a percentage of the poverty line ^a	All households		Households with elderly ^b		Households with elderly or disabled ^c		Households with children ^d	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
25% or less	971	13.7	33	2.3	37	1.8	609	14.1
26 - 50	1,595	22.6	69	4.8	112	5.5	1,192	27.5
51 - 75	1,908	27.0	280	19.5	487	23.8	1,307	30.2
76 - 100	2,033	28.8	871	60.7	1,170	57.2	911	21.0
101 - 125	492	7.0	163	11.4	216	10.6	277	6.4
126 - 130	44	0.6	9	0.6	9	0.4	27	0.6
131 - 150	21	0.3	7	0.5	9	0.4	7	0.2
151 or more	7	0.1	3	0.2	5	0.2	1	0.0
Total ^e	7,071	100.0	1,433	100.0	2,046	100.0	4,331	100.0

^aDefined as the 1988 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendix B).

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-10--Distribution of participating households by net monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children

Net income as a percentage of the poverty line ^a	All households		Households with elderly ^b		Households with elderly or disabled ^c		Households with children ^d	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
25% or less	3,131	44.3	342	23.8	477	23.3	1,832	42.3
26 - 50	2,050	29.0	473	33.0	673	32.9	1,365	31.5
51 - 75	1,532	21.7	498	34.8	719	35.1	928	21.4
76 - 100	337	4.8	114	7.9	163	8.0	197	4.6
101 - 125	15	0.2	4	0.3	10	0.5	8	0.2
126 - 130	1	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.0
131 - 150	2	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.1	--	--
151 or more	1	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.0
Total ^e	7,071	100.0	1,433	100.0	2,046	100.0	4,331	100.0

^aDefined as the 1988 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendix B).

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-11--Number of participating households claiming deductions
and value of deductions claimed^a

Type of deduction	Number of households claiming deduction (thousands)	Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
			Over claiming households	Over all households
Earned income	1,458	20.6	\$104	\$21
Dependent care ^b	179	2.5	97	2
Shelter ^c	5,050	71.4	119	85
Medical ^d	184	2.6	69	2
Total ^e	7,071	100.0	213	213

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bSubject to a limit of \$160 per month with some exceptions (see appendix D).

^cSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix D).

^dAvailable only to households where at least one person is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

^eIncludes the standard deduction for all households (see appendix D). Due to households claiming more than one deduction or none at all, the sum of the individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-12--Distribution of participating households by
amount of total deduction

Amount of total deduction ^a	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
\$101 - 150	2,230	31.5
151 - 200	994	14.1
201 - 250	1,025	14.5
251 - 300	1,890	26.7
300+	932	13.2
Total ^b	7,071	100.0
Average total deduction for claiming households = \$213		

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-13--Average total deduction^a for all households by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Average total deduction
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
	(dollars)								
None	158	208	207	203	192	185	249	261	184
\$1-99	170	209	216	227	236	--	254	266	192
100-199	200	181	187	201	227	190	201	246	195
200-299	205	206	198	184	189	211	162	193	201
300-399	195	201	209	206	207	248	132	235	200
400-499	208	216	225	197	202	187	185	187	211
500-599	221	194	216	208	231	237	192	210	209
600-699	254	244	228	243	224	187	187	187	232
700-799	152	290	261	235	241	169	242	257	244
800-899	247	267	317	279	231	200	223	176	260
900-999	--	277	344	282	256	236	238	216	273
1000+	102	403	382	303	314	305	272	244	293
Average total deduction	195	209	223	225	234	228	224	225	213

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-14--Number of participating households claiming earned income deduction and value of deduction claimed^a

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly ^b	1,433	57	4.0	\$57	\$2
Children ^c	4,331	1,211	28.0	114	31
Disabled ^d	612	54	8.8	69	6
Earned income ^e	1,458	1,458	100.0	104	103
Public Assistance ^f	3,543	379	10.7	74	8
Total ^g	7,071	1,458	20.6	104	21

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member is age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^gThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-15--Distribution of participating households
by amount of earned income deduction^a

Amount of earned income deduction ^a	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	5,613	79.4
\$1-50	392	5.5
51-100	354	5.0
101-150	361	5.1
151-200	225	3.2
201-250	86	1.2
251-300	27	0.4
300+	13	0.2
Total ^b	7,071	100.0
Average earned income deduction for claiming households = \$104		

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-16--Number of participating households claiming dependent care deduction^a and value of deduction claimed^b

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly ^c	1,433	2	0.1	\$160	\$0
Children ^d	4,331	175	4.0	97	4
Disabled ^e	612	1	0.2	20	0
Earned income ^f	1,458	152	10.4	98	10
Public assistance ^g	3,543	75	2.1	96	2
Total ^h	7,071	179	2.5	97	2

^aSubject to a limit of \$160 per month with some exceptions (see appendix D).

^bDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^fEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment and farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^gPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^hThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-17--Distribution of participating households by amount of dependent care deduction^a

Amount of dependent care deduction ^b	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	6,892	97.5
\$1-50	45	0.6
51-100	51	0.7
101-150	45	0.6
151-160	38	0.5
Total ^c	7,071	100.0
Average dependent care deduction for claiming households = \$97		

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bSubject to a limit of \$160 per month with some exceptions (see appendix D).

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-18--Number of participating households claiming excess shelter deduction^a and value of deduction claimed^b

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly ^c	1,433	950	66.2	\$121	\$80
Children ^d	4,331	3,084	71.2	118	84
Disabled ^e	612	421	68.8	125	86
Earned income ^f	1,458	959	65.7	113	74
Public assistance ^g	3,543	2,682	75.7	118	89
Total ^h	7,071	5,050	71.4	119	85

^aSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix D).

^bDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^fEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^gPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^hThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-19--Distribution of participating households by
amount of excess shelter deduction^a

Amount of excess shelter deduction ^b	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	2,021	28.6
\$1 - 50	865	12.2
51 - 100	1,053	14.9
101 - 150	957	13.5
151 - 200	1,930	27.3
201 - 250	117	1.7
251 - 300	61	0.9
300+	66	0.9
Total ^c	7,071	100.0

Average excess shelter deduction for claiming households = \$119

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix D).

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-20--Distribution of participating households
by the value of shelter deduction^a

Value of shelter deduction ^b	All households		Households with elderly ^c		Households with children ^d		Households with disabled ^e		Households with earned income ^f		Households with public assistance ^g	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	2,021	28.6	484	33.8	1,247	28.8	191	31.2	500	34.3	861	24.3
Less than cap	2,986	42.2	671	46.8	1,692	39.1	285	46.6	586	40.2	1,519	42.9
Equal to cap	1,651	23.4	1	0.1	1,314	30.3	2	0.3	355	24.3	1,070	30.2
Greater than cap	413	5.8	278	19.4	78	1.8	134	22.0	18	1.2	93	2.6
Total ^h	7,071	100.0	1,433	100.0	4,331	100.0	612	100.0	1,458	100.0	3,543	100.0

^aDeductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bSubject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix D).

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^fEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^gPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^hDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-21--Number of participating households claiming medical deduction and value of deduction claimed^a

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly ^b	1,433	175	12.2	\$67	\$8
Children ^c	4,331	15	0.3	30	0
Disabled ^d	612	9	1.5	97	1
Earned income ^e	1,458	7	0.5	150	1
Public assistance ^f	3,543	7	0.2	30	0
Total ^g	7,071	184	2.6	69	2

^aAvailable only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more. Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^gThe sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-22--Distribution of participating households by
amount of medical deduction^a

Amount of medical deduction ^a	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	6,887	97.4
\$ 1 - 50	98	1.4
51 - 100	52	0.7
101 - 150	21	0.3
151 - 200	6	0.1
201 - 250	2	0.0
251 - 300	3	0.0
300+	3	0.0
Total ^b	7,071	100.0
Average medical deduction for claiming households = \$69		

^aAvailable only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more. Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-23--Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit^a

Amount of monthly benefit ^a	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
\$10 or less	487	6.9
11 - 25	334	4.7
26 - 50	629	8.9
51 - 75	691	9.8
76 - 100	1,233	17.4
101 - 150	1,088	15.4
151 - 200	1,100	15.6
201 - 300	1,197	16.9
301 or more	311	4.4
Total ^b	7,071	100.0
Average monthly food stamp benefit = \$130		

^aThe maximum monthly benefit varies by area (see appendix E).

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-24--Average monthly food stamp benefit by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Average total deduction
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
	(dollars)								
None	87	159	229	290	347	413	457	549	165
\$1-99	87	159	228	290	344	--	457	522	151
100-199	84	152	222	288	343	408	457	585	151
200-299	70	143	208	269	324	396	423	508	163
300-399	38	115	186	245	300	385	393	524	103
400-499	26	91	158	212	270	331	380	465	114
500-500	18	57	130	186	247	319	352	497	119
600-699	12	44	103	173	214	274	319	446	138
700-799	10	32	84	135	192	242	309	407	135
800-899	10	17	71	121	158	229	267	352	140
900-999	--	16	47	89	141	200	243	375	134
1000+	10	22	55	61	98	139	151	262	131
Average benefit per household	51	102	156	193	215	262	284	386	130

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-25--Distribution of participating households by total countable resources for all households and households with elderly or disabled

Value of countable resources ^a	All households		Households with elderly ^b		Households with elderly or disabled ^c	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	5,401	76.4	892	62.3	1,346	65.8
\$ 1 - 500	1,303	18.4	360	25.1	481	23.5
501 - 1,000	202	2.9	99	6.9	119	5.8
1,001 - 1,500	106	1.5	45	3.2	61	3.0
1,501 - 1,750	26	0.4	14	1.0	15	0.8
1,751 - 2,000	16	0.2	8	0.5	8	0.4
2,001 - 3,000	12	0.2	11	0.8	11	0.6
Unknown	4	0.1	3	0.2	3	0.2
Total ^d	7,071	100.0	1,433	100.0	2,046	100.0

Average value of countable resources for all households = \$82

Average value of countable resources for elderly households = \$184

Average value of countable resources for elderly or disabled households = \$153

^aDefined as cash on hand, assets which can be easily converted to cash, such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments. They also include some nonliquid assets, although the family home, one or more family vehicles if under \$4,500 in value, and business tools or property are not counted.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-26--Distribution of participating households
by type of most recent action

Most recent action	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Initial certification ^a	1,747	24.7
Recertification	5,245	74.2
Unknown	79	1.1
Total ^b	7,071	100.0

^aIncludes both households certified for the first time and previously certified households who have not received benefits for at least 30 days.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-27--Comparison of households with and without expedited service by presence of gross and net monthly income

	Households with expedited service ^a		Households without expedited service		Unknown	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent ^b
Gross income = 0	109	41.7	372	5.5	9	41.2
Gross income > 0	152	58.3	6,415	94.5	13	58.8
Net income = 0	164	62.8	1,142	16.8	12	52.3
Net income > 0	97	37.2	5,645	83.2	11	47.7
Total ^c	261	3.7	6,787	96.0	23	0.3

^aHouseholds which initially received expedited service for the certification period in effect in January or February 1988.

^bPercents are calculated from unrounded numbers and may not match calculations based on the rounded number presented in the table.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-28--Distribution of participating households by
length of certification period

Months in certification period	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
1	49	0.7
2	49	0.7
3	272	3.8
4	216	3.1
5	119	1.7
6	1,542	21.8
7	275	3.9
8	146	2.1
9	69	1.0
10	83	1.2
11	185	2.6
12	3,564	50.4
13+	488	6.9
Unknown	14	0.2
Total ^a	7,071	100.0
Average length of certification in months = 9.6		

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-29--Distribution of participating households
by household size

Household size	All households		Households with elderly ^a		Households with earnings ^b		Households with children ^c	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
1	2,248	31.8	1,051	73.3	147	10.1	25	0.6
2	1,519	21.5	256	17.9	278	19.1	1,067	24.6
3	1,326	18.8	56	3.9	312	21.4	1,275	29.4
4	967	13.7	25	1.7	311	21.3	956	22.1
5	535	7.6	21	1.4	207	14.2	532	12.3
6	261	3.7	14	1.0	112	7.7	261	6.0
7	115	1.6	2	0.1	43	3.0	115	2.7
8+	99	1.4	8	0.6	47	3.2	99	2.3
Total ^d	7,071	100.0	1,433	100.0	1,458	100.0	4,331	100.0
Average size	2.7		1.5		3.7		3.6	

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-30--Sex- and age-related characteristics
of participating households

	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households ^a
Households with elderly ^b	1,433	20.3
Single-person elderly households ^c	1,051	14.9
Headed by female	858	12.1
Headed by male	192	2.7
Unknown	1	0.0
Other elderly households ^d	382	5.4
Headed by female	199	2.8
Headed by male	181	2.6
Unknown	2	0.0
Households with children ^e	4,331	61.3
Headed by female	3,520	49.8
Headed by male	743	10.5
Unknown	67	1.0
Households with disabled ^f	612	8.7
Headed by female	429	6.1
Headed by male	182	2.6
Unknown	1	0.0

^aPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cIncludes elderly single persons living alone or as a separate food stamp unit in a larger household.

^dIncludes elderly couples and other multiperson households with elderly members.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^fHouseholds with SSI income and no member is age 60 or more.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-31--Distribution of participating households by household size,
number of elderly, number of children, and number of school-age children

	Household size								Number of households (thousands)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
Number of elderly ^a									
0	1,197	1,263	1,271	942	514	247	113	91	5,637
1	1,051	135	43	20	17	13	2	8	1,288
2	**	122	12	5	4	2	--	--	144
3	**	**	1	--	--	--	0	--	2
Number of children ^b									
0	2,223	452	51	11	2	--	--	--	2,740
1	25	1,026	368	37	10	4	0	--	1,470
2	**	41	886	390	52	11	1	2	1,384
3	**	**	21	513	287	26	11	2	861
4	**	**	**	16	180	155	23	9	382
5	**	**	**	**	2	66	80	86	235
Number of school-age children ^c									
0	2,234	908	416	158	33	6	1	2	3,757
1	15	597	513	232	103	18	4	2	1,483
2	**	15	392	339	167	54	19	8	995
3	**	**	5	232	172	77	29	14	530
4	**	**	**	6	57	86	33	26	208
5+	**	**	**	**	2	20	29	47	98
Total ^d									
	2,248	1,519	1,326	967	535	261	115	99	7,071

^aPersons age 60 or more.

^bPersons age 17 or less.

^cPersons age 5 to 17.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

** By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories, therefore, no households will be found in this category.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-32--Distribution of participants by age and sex

Age	Female		Male		Unknown		All participants	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
4 or less	1,610	8.4	1,644	8.6	5	0.0	3,259	17.1
5 - 17	3,219	16.9	3,212	16.8	4	0.0	6,435	33.8
18 - 35	3,437	18.0	1,475	7.7	4	0.0	4,916	25.8
36 - 59	1,825	9.6	1,014	5.3	1	0.0	2,840	14.9
60 or more	1,156	6.1	425	2.2	--	--	1,580	8.3
Unknown	14	0.1	17	0.1	3	0.0	34	0.2
Total ^a	11,260	59.1	7,785	40.8	17	0.1	19,063	100.0

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-33--Age-related characteristics of participants

	Number of participants (thousands)	Percent of participants
A. Children ^a	9,693	50.8
1. Preschool children	3,259	17.1
2. School-age children	6,435	33.8
B. Adults ^b	7,755	40.7
1. Parents	5,847	30.7
a. Single parents	2,718	14.3
Living with elderly	56	0.3
Disabled	73	0.4
Living with disabled	41	0.2
Other	2,548	13.4
b. Multiple parents	3,129	16.4
Living with elderly	68	0.4
Disabled	149	0.8
Living with disabled	241	1.3
Other	2,671	14.0
2. Nonparents	1,908	10.0
a. Single adults	1,270	6.7
Living with elderly	96	0.5
Disabled	262	1.4
Living with disabled	1	0.0
Other	910	4.8
b. Multiple adults	638	3.3
Living with elderly	35	0.2
Disabled	78	0.4
Living with disabled	82	0.4
Other	443	2.3
C. Elderly ^c	1,580	8.3
D. Unknown age	34	0.2
Total ^d	19,063	100.0

^aPersons age 17 or less.^bPersons age 18 to 59.^cPersons age 60 or more.^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-34--Distribution of participating households by
race or ethnic origin of household head

Race/ethnic origin of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
White	3,323	47.0
Black	2,555	36.1
Hispanic	895	12.7
Asian	108	1.5
American Indian	77	1.1
Unknown	113	1.6
Total ^a	7,071	100.0

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-35--Distribution of participating households by
selected characteristics of household members

Households with at least one:	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Alien	92	1.3
Migrant	2	0.0
Military	3	0.0
Striker	2	0.0
Student ^a	390	5.5

^aHousehold member age 18 years or older enrolled at least halftime in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-36--Distribution of participating households by
employment status of household head

Employment status of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Employed fulltime ^a	626	8.8
Employed parttime ^b	321	4.5
Self-employed	31	0.4
Farm employed	8	0.1
Not employed	5,908	83.6
Unknown	177	2.5
Total ^c	7,071	100.0

^aEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

^bEmployed less than 30 hours per week.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-37--Distribution of participating households by work registration status of household head

Work registration status of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of households
Required to register for work	870	12.3
Exempt from work registration:	5,961	84.3
Less than 18	41	0.6
Disabled or elderly	2,137	30.2
WIN participant	1,404	19.9
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult ^a	1,647	23.3
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	85	1.2
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	27	0.4
Employed fulltime ^b	580	8.2
Student ^c	41	0.6
Unknown	240	3.4
Total ^d	7,071	100.0

^aIncludes both caretakers of children under 6 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment.

^bEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

^cEnrolled at least halftime in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-38--Distribution of participants by work
registration status

Work registration status	Number of participants (thousands)	Percent of participants
Required to register for work	1,494	7.8
Exempt from work registration:	17,190	90.2
Less than 18	9,209	48.3
Disabled or elderly	2,602	13.6
WIN participant	1,741	9.1
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult ^a	2,161	11.3
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	116	0.6
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	27	0.1
Employed fulltime ^b	841	4.4
Student ^c	493	2.6
Unknown	377	2.0
Total ^d	19,063	100.0

^aIncludes both caretakers of children under 6 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment.

^bEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

^cEnrolled at least halftime in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

^dDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-39--Distribution of households and benefits
for households with and without earned income

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with earned income ^a	1,458	20.6	\$222,943	24.3
Households with no earned income	5,613	79.4	693,881	75.7
Total ^b	7,071	100.0	916,824	100.0

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-40--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without earned income

	Households with earned income ^a	Households with no earned income
Gross monthly income (dollars)	651	378
Net monthly income (dollars)	372	209
Total deduction ^b (dollars)	291	192
Countable resources (dollars)	96	78
Monthly benefit (dollars)	153	124
Household size (persons)	3.7	2.4
Certification period (months)	9.0	9.8

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-41--Number and percentage of households with and without earned income for selected characteristics

	Households with earned income ^a		Households with no earned income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^b	Number (thousands)	Percent ^b
Zero gross income	**	**	490	8.7
Zero net income	179	12.2	1,139	20.3
Minimum benefit ^c	44	3.0	433	7.7
Elderly ^d	57	3.9	1,376	24.5
Children ^e	1,212	83.1	3,119	55.6
School-age children ^f	972	66.7	2,341	41.7

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^cMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^fHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

** By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories, therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-42--Comparison of distribution of participating households
on selected characteristics for households
with and without earned income

	Households with earned income ^a		Households with no earned income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Household size				
1 - 2	425	29.1	3,343	59.6
3 - 4	623	42.8	1,670	29.8
5+	410	28.1	600	10.7
Gross income				
None	**	**	490	8.7
\$ 1 - 99	53	3.6	70	1.3
100 - 199	70	4.8	535	9.5
200 - 299	80	5.5	690	12.3
300 - 399	126	8.7	1,545	27.5
400 - 499	154	10.6	872	15.5
500+	974	66.8	1,409	25.1
Net income				
None	179	12.2	1,139	20.3
\$ 1 - 99	130	8.9	888	15.8
100 - 199	139	9.5	1,045	18.6
200 - 299	190	13.0	1,037	18.5
300 - 399	215	14.7	604	10.8
400 - 499	184	12.6	420	7.5
500+	423	29.0	480	8.5
Benefits				
\$10 or less	48	3.3	439	7.8
11 - 50	104	7.2	859	15.3
51 - 100	354	24.3	1,570	28.0
101 - 200	559	38.4	1,628	29.0
201 - 300	293	20.1	903	16.1
301+	98	6.7	213	3.8
Total ^b	1,458	100.0	5,613	100.0

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

** By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories, therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-43--Distribution of households and benefits for
households with and without elderly

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with elderly ^a	1,433	20.3	\$73,209	8.0
Households without elderly	5,637	79.7	843,615	92.0
Total ^b	7,071	100.0	916,824	100.0

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-44--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without elderly

	Households with elderly ^a	Households with no elderly
Gross monthly income (dollars)	425	437
Net monthly income (dollars)	241	243
Total deduction ^b (dollars)	193	218
Countable resources ^c (dollars)	184	56
Monthly benefit (dollars)	51	150
Household size (persons)	1.5	3.0
Certification period (months)	11.5	9.2

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those deductions to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^cThe resource limit for most households was \$2,000. However, households with at least one member age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-45--Number and percentage of households with and without elderly for selected characteristics

	Households with elderly ^a		Households with no elderly	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^b	Number (thousands)	Percent ^b
Zero gross income	16	1.1	474	8.4
Zero net income	105	7.3	1,213	21.5
Minimum benefit ^c	348	24.3	129	2.3
Children ^d	146	10.2	4,185	74.2
School-age children ^e	132	9.2	3,182	56.4

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^cMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-46--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without elderly

	Households with elderly ^a		Households with no elderly	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Household size				
1 - 2	1,308	91.2	2,459	43.6
3 - 4	80	5.6	2,213	39.3
5+	45	3.2	965	17.1
Gross income				
None	16	1.1	474	8.4
\$ 1 - 99	8	0.6	115	2.0
100 - 199	36	2.5	569	10.1
200 - 299	73	5.1	697	12.4
300 - 399	661	46.1	1,011	17.9
400 - 499	319	22.2	708	12.6
500+	321	22.4	2,063	36.6
Net income				
None	105	7.3	1,213	21.5
\$ 1 - 99	175	12.2	843	15.0
100 - 199	306	21.3	878	15.6
200 - 299	451	31.5	776	13.8
300 - 399	183	12.8	635	11.3
400 - 499	118	8.2	486	8.6
500+	96	6.7	806	14.3
Benefits				
\$10 or less	349	24.4	138	2.4
11 - 50	552	38.5	411	7.3
51 - 100	389	27.2	1,535	27.2
101 - 200	104	7.2	2,084	37.0
201 - 300	30	2.1	1,167	20.7
301+	9	0.6	302	5.4
Total ^b	1,433	100.0	5,637	100.0

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-47--Distribution of households and benefits
for households with and without disabled

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with disabled ^a	612	8.7	\$56,451	6.2
Households with no disabled	6,459	91.3	860,373	93.8
Total ^b	7,071	100.0	916,824	100.0

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-48--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without disabled

	Households with disabled ^a	Households with no disabled
Gross monthly income (dollars)	532	425
Net monthly income (dollars)	338	234
Total deductions ^b (dollars)	196	214
Countable resources (dollars)	82	82
Monthly benefit (dollars)	92	133
Household size (persons)	2.6	2.7
Certification period (months)	10.1	9.6

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-49--Number and percentage of households with and without disabled for selected characteristics

Households with:	Households with disabled ^a		Households with no disabled	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^b	Number (thousands)	Percent ^b
Zero gross income	0	0.0	490	7.6
Zero net income	21	3.4	1,297	20.1
Minimum benefit ^c	59	9.6	418	6.5
Children ^d	279	45.5	4,052	62.7
School-age children ^e	245	40.0	3,069	47.5

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^cMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-50--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without disabled

Households with:	Households with disabled ^a		Households with no disabled	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Household size				
1 - 2	367	59.9	3,401	52.7
3 - 4	148	24.2	2,145	33.2
5+	97	15.9	913	14.1
Gross income				
None	--	--	490	7.6
\$ 1 - 99	--	--	123	1.9
100 - 199	0	0.1	605	9.4
200 - 299	10	1.6	760	11.8
300 - 399	268	43.7	1,404	21.7
400 - 499	83	13.6	943	14.6
500+	251	41.0	2,133	33.0
Net income				
None	21	3.4	1,297	20.1
\$ 1 - 99	59	9.7	959	14.8
100 - 199	141	23.1	1,043	16.1
200 - 299	131	21.4	1,096	17.0
300 - 399	55	8.9	764	11.8
400 - 499	68	11.2	535	8.3
500+	137	22.4	765	11.9
Benefits				
\$10 or less	63	10.3	424	6.6
11 - 50	177	28.9	786	12.2
51 - 100	178	29.2	1,746	27.0
101 - 200	134	21.9	2,054	31.8
201 - 300	36	5.9	1,161	18.0
301+	24	3.9	288	4.5
Total ^b	612	100.0	6,459	100.0

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-51--Distribution of households and benefits
for households with children, school-age
children, and no children

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with children ^a	4,331	61.3	\$754,875	82.3
Households with school-age children ^b	3,314	46.9	609,644	66.5
Households with no children	2,740	38.7	161,949	17.7
Total ^c	7,071	100.0	916,824	100.0

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-52--Average value of selected characteristics for
households with children, school-age children,
and no children

	Households with children ^a	Households with school-age children ^b	Households with no children
Gross monthly income (dollars)	503	527	326
Net monthly income (dollars)	298	321	155
Total deduction ^c (dollars)	222	223	198
Countable resources (dollars)	59	54	119
Monthly benefit (dollars)	174	184	59
Household size (persons)	3.6	3.9	1.2
Certification period (months)	9.2	9.2	10.4

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^cIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-53--Number and percentage of households with children, school-age children, and no children for selected characteristics

	Households with children ^a		Households with school-age children ^b		Households with no children	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^c	Number (thousands)	Percent ^c	Number (thousands)	Percent ^c
Zero gross income	237	5.5	172	5.2	253	9.3
Zero net income	587	13.6	410	12.4	730	26.7
Minimum benefit ^d	11	0.2	5	0.2	467	17.0
Elderly ^e	146	3.4	132	4.0	1,287	47.0
School-age children ^b	3,314	76.5	3,314	100.0	0	0.0

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^cPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^dMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-54--Comparison of distribution of participating households
on selected characteristics for households with children,
school-age children, and no children

	Households with children ^a		Households with school-age children ^b		Households with no children	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Households size						
1 - 2	1,092	25.2	626	18.9	2,675	97.6
3 - 4	2,231	51.5	1,719	51.9	62	2.3
5+	1,008	23.3	968	29.2	2	0.1
Gross income						
None	237	5.5	172	5.2	253	9.3
\$ 1 - 99	47	1.1	33	1.0	76	2.8
100 - 199	273	6.3	178	5.4	332	12.1
200 - 299	510	11.8	340	10.2	260	9.5
300 - 399	623	14.4	471	14.2	1,048	38.3
400 - 499	608	14.0	444	13.4	419	15.3
500+	2,033	46.9	1,676	50.6	351	12.8
Net income						
None	587	13.6	410	12.4	730	26.7
\$ 1 - 99	561	13.0	393	11.8	457	16.7
100 - 199	639	14.8	453	13.7	545	19.9
200 - 299	639	14.8	490	14.8	588	21.4
300 - 399	587	13.5	446	13.5	232	8.5
400 - 499	482	11.1	388	11.7	122	4.4
500+	836	19.3	733	22.1	67	2.4
Benefits						
\$10 or less	21	0.5	15	0.4	467	17.0
11 - 50	185	4.3	129	3.9	778	28.4
51 - 100	674	15.6	464	14.0	1,251	45.7
101 - 200	1,962	45.3	1,415	42.7	226	8.3
201 - 300	1,179	27.2	987	29.8	17	0.6
301+	311	7.2	304	9.2	1	0.0
Total ^c	4,331	100.0	3,314	100.0	2,740	100.0

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^cDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-55--Distribution of households and benefits
for households with and without AFDC income

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with AFDC income	2,785	39.4	\$459,858	50.2
Households with no AFDC income	4,286	60.6	456,966	49.8
Total ^a	7,071	100.0	916,824	100.0

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-56--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without AFDC income

	Households with AFDC income	Households with no AFDC income
Gross monthly income (dollars)	487	400
Net monthly income (dollars)	291	211
Total deduction ^a (dollars)	200	221
Countable resources (dollars)	38	111
Monthly benefit (dollars)	165	107
Household size (persons)	3.5	2.2
Certification period (months)	9.4	9.8

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-57--Number and percentage of households with and without
AFDC income for selected characteristics

Households with:	Households with AFDC income		Households with no AFDC income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent ^a	Number (thousands)	Percent ^a
Zero gross income	**	**	490	11.4%
Zero net income	212	7.6	1,105	25.8
Minimum benefit ^b	10	0.4	467	10.9
Elderly ^c	71	2.6	1,362	31.8
Children ^d	2,732	98.1	1,599	37.3
School-age children ^e	2,048	73.5	1,266	29.5

^aPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

** By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories, therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-58--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without AFDC income

Households with:	Households with AFDC income		Households with no AFDC income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Household size				
1 - 2	831	29.8	2,937	68.5
3 - 4	1,401	50.3	892	20.8
5+	553	19.8	457	10.7
Gross income				
None	**	**	490	11.4
\$ 1 - 99	12	0.4	111	2.6
100 - 199	212	7.6	393	9.2
200 - 299	422	15.2	348	8.1
300 - 399	475	17.1	1,197	27.9
400 - 499	458	16.4	569	13.3
500+	1,205	43.3	1,179	27.5
Net income				
None	212	7.6	1,105	25.8
\$ 1 - 99	449	16.1	569	13.3
100 - 199	490	17.6	694	16.2
200 - 299	455	16.4	771	18.0
300 - 399	425	15.3	394	9.2
400 - 499	290	10.4	314	7.3
500+	464	16.7	439	10.2
Benefits				
\$10 or less	20	0.7	467	10.9
11 - 50	120	4.3	843	19.7
51 - 100	454	16.3	1,470	34.3
101 - 200	1,354	48.6	834	19.5
201 - 300	680	24.4	516	12.0
301+	156	5.6	156	3.6
Total ^a	2,785	100.0	4,286	100.0

^aDue to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

** By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories, therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-59--Comparison of average value of selected characteristics for August 1980 - Winter 1988

	August 1980 ^a	August 1981	August 1982	Feb. 1983	August 1983	August 1984	Summer 1985	Summer 1986	Summer 1987	Winter 1988
Gross monthly income (dollars)	326	349	356	376	379	390	398	417	426	434
Net monthly income (dollars)	194	196	205	208	224	229	226	232	239	243
Total deduction ^b (dollars)	148	169	159	175	170	177	191	203	205	213
Countable resources (dollars)	66	62	58	73	54	58	63	71	79	82
Monthly benefit (dollars)	89	103	105	127	116	114	116	120	120	130
Household size (persons)	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7

^aExcludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. Deductions are those to which households are entitled. Some deductions may not have been used before a household reached zero net income status.

Sources: August 1980 - Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Appendix Table A-60--Comparison of percentage of households with selected characteristics for August 1980 - winter 1988

Households with:	Percent of all households									
	August 1980 ^a	August 1981	August 1982	Feb. 1983	August 1983	August 1984	August 1985	Summer 1986	Summer 1987	Winter 1988
Zero gross income	8.1	7.3	7.8	5.4	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.0	6.0	6.9
Zero net income	16.6	18.7	18.9	18.4	16.4	17.5	19.8	18.6	17.7	18.6
Minimum benefit	6.9	5.6	7.5	4.5	7.5	9.6	8.5	8.5	8.9	6.7
Elderly ^b	22.6	20.9	19.6	18.1	20.2	22.1	21.4	20.2	20.5	20.3
Children ^c	59.9	56.4	58.2	68.1	63.8	60.9	59.2	61.2	61.2	61.3
School-age children ^d	44.4	44.2	49.2	51.6	47.3	46.3	47.4	47.8	47.8	46.9

^aExcludes Alaska and Hawaii

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Sources: August 1980 - Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Appendix B--Poverty income guidelines for 1988^a

Household size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,860	\$ 6,310
2	7,400	9,240	8,500
3	9,300	11,620	10,690
4	11,200	14,000	12,880
5	13,100	16,380	15,070
6	15,000	18,760	17,260
7	16,900	21,140	19,450
8 ^b	18,800	23,520	21,640

^aAnnual income for nonfarm families.

^bFor households with more than eight members, add \$1,900 in the continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands; \$2,380 in Alaska; and \$2,190 in Hawaii for each additional person.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services.

Appendix C--Maximum allowable net monthly food stamp income
eligibility standards in winter 1988

Household size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$ 459	\$ 572	\$ 526
2	617	770	709
3	775	969	891
4	934	1,167	1,074
5	1,092	1,365	1,256
6	1,250	1,564	1,439
7	1,409	1,762	1,621
8 ^b	1,567	1,960	1,804

^a The food stamp net income standards are equal to the HHS poverty income guidelines (appendix A) divided by 12, rounded up to the nearest dollar.

^b For households with more than eight members, add \$158 in the continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands; \$198 in Alaska; and \$183 in Hawaii for each additional person.

Source: 52 Federal Registry 19901, May 28, 1987.

Appendix D--Value of standard and maximum dependent care and excess shelter deductions in continental United States and outlying areas in winter 1988

Area	Standard	Dependent care	Excess shelter ^a	
			Prior Law ^b	P.L. 100
Continental United States	\$102	\$160	\$152	\$164
Alaska	175	160	261	285
Hawaii	144	160	217	234
Guam	205	160	185	199
Virgin Islands	90	160	112	121

^aLimit on excess shelter deduction for households certified after 10/1/87 and with no member age 60 or more or no disabled member.

^bThese amounts went into effect October 1, 1987 for households whose certification period began before October 1, 1987. They remained in effect until the household was recertified or began a new certification period; then the amounts under P.L. 100-77 went into effect.

Source: 52 Federal Registry 36809, October 1, 1987.

Appendix E--Value of maximum coupon allotment (Thrifty Food Plan) in
continental United States and outlying areas in winter 1988

Household Size	Continental United States ^a	Rural I	Alaska ^b Rural II	Nenana	Urban	Hawaii	Guam	Virgin Islands
1	\$ 87	\$144	\$176	\$158	\$113	\$133	\$128	\$111
2	159	265	322	290	207	244	235	205
3	228	379	462	415	297	350	336	293
4	290	482	586	527	378	444	427	373
5	344	572	696	626	448	527	508	443
6	413	686	836	752	538	633	609	531
7	457	759	924	831	595	700	673	587
8 ^c	522	867	1056	949	680	800	770	671

^aExcludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^bDue to the unusual nature of Alaskan terrain and climate, areas outside major urban centers are less accessible to food distributors. Therefore, the value of the maximum coupon allotment accounts for this added expense by splitting the Thrifty Food Plan into four separate components: Rural I, Rural II, Nenana, and Urban.

^cFor households with more than eight members, add \$65 in the continental United States, \$100 in Hawaii, \$90 in Guam, and \$79 in the Virgin Islands for each additional person. In Alaska, add the following amounts for each area:

Area	Amount
Rural I	\$108
Rural II	132
Nenana	119
Urban	85

Source: For Continental United States, 52 Federal Registry 49055 December 29, 1987.
For Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and the Virgin Islands, 52 Federal Registry 36809 October 1, 1987.

Appendix F--Source and reliability of estimates

Background

The summary tables are derived from a sample of households selected for review as part of the quality control system. This system is an ongoing review of food stamp household circumstances to determine (1) if households are eligible to participate or are receiving the correct coupon allotment, and (2) if household participation is correctly denied or terminated. The system is based on a national probability sample of approximately 70,000 participating food stamp households and a somewhat smaller number of denials and terminations every 12 months. The national sample of participating households collected in the Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS) is stratified by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Annually required State samples range from a minimum of 300 to a maximum of 2,400 reviews depending on the size of the State's caseload. State agencies select an independent sample each month that is generally proportional to the size of the monthly participating caseload.¹ The survey reported here relies primarily on the winter 1988 food stamp IQCS sample of participating households. To ensure an adequate sampling size, both January and February samples comprised the data which were collected for the winter of 1988. Because the winter 1988 caseload was larger than the summer 1987 caseload, the winter 1988 file is approximately 6 percent larger than the summer 1987 file.

Target Universe

The target universe of this study included all participating households (active cases) subject to quality control review in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The winter 1988 participating caseload in Guam and the Virgin Islands was also sampled, but these results are not included in the tabulations.

While almost all participating food stamp households are included in the target universe, certain types not amenable to QC review are not. Specifically, the active universe includes all households receiving food stamps during a review period except those in which the participants died or moved outside the State,

¹Several States have integrated the Food Stamp, AFDC, and Medicaid QC sample selection and review process. In these States, monthly sample size is not necessarily proportional to monthly caseload size.

received benefits by a disaster certification authorized by FNS, were under investigation for Food Stamp Program fraud (including those with pending fraud hearings), and/or were appealing a notice of adverse action when the review date falls within the time period covered by continued participation pending a hearing, or received restored benefits in accordance with the State manual but who were otherwise ineligible. The sampling unit within the active universe each month is the food stamp household as specified in FNS regulations.

Weighting

The tabulations in this report are based on a total of 11,113 valid observations. The sample findings have been weighted by the number of participating households as reported to FNS. The case record weights of several States were adjusted to reflect the disproportionately stratified QC sample designs in those States.

Income Decision Rule

Several household-level income and deduction variables are both reported and can be calculated by summing across person-level variables. Gross income is the key variable, since the earned income and excess shelter deductions and net income depend on gross income, and benefit levels depend on net income. The data on which this report is based were edited to achieve internal consistency. The mean values for selected variables broken out by their calculated or reported values are presented in table F-1.

Comparison to Participation Data

The following data present a comparison of the quality control sample-based estimates to aggregate program participation data (excluding Guam and the Virgin Islands):

	<u>Program data</u>	<u>Winter 1988 IQCS sample</u>
Number of households	7,070,434	7,070,815
Number of participants	18,786,156	19,062,833
Value of benefits	\$935,825,769	\$916,824,100
Average household size	2.66	2.69
Average bonus per person	\$49.81	\$48.09

Completion Rates

Failure to complete reviews for all cases selected subject to review can bias the sample results if the characteristics of unreviewed households are significantly different from those of reviewed households. While there are no direct measures of such differences, the ratio of valid observations to sample cases selected for review provides an indication of the magnitude of any potential bias. The expected number of cases subject to review in the sample is based on one-sixth of all cases reported as subject to review during October 1987 - September 1988. However, since winter caseloads are larger than caseloads during other times of the year, this approach probably results in a slight underestimation of the total expected number and thus a slight overestimation of the completion rate. The number of cases selected subject to review, the number of valid observations, and the estimated completion rates are shown below:

Number of cases selected subject to review	12,076
Number of cases completed	11,113
Estimated completion rate	92.0%

Even though possibly an overestimate, this completion rate compares very favorably with other surveys of this nature.

Appendix Table F-1--Comparison of mean calculated and reported values for selected variables of participating households

	All households	Earnings ^a	Households with		
			Elderly ^b	Children ^c	Disabled ^d
(AVERAGES)					
Gross income					
Calculated	\$434	\$651	\$425	\$503	\$532
Reported	437	651	425	510	528
Net Income					
Calculated	243	372	241	298	338
Reported	236	366	233	293	325
Total Deduction ^e					
Calculated	213	291	193	222	196
Reported	211	282	193	218	197
Benefit					
Calculated	130	153	51	174	92
Reported	130	152	52	173	94
(PERCENTAGES)					
Percent with Zero Gross					
Calculated	6.9	0.0	1.1	5.5	0.0
Reported	6.0	0.1	1.1	3.9	0.0
Percent with Zero Net					
Calculated	18.6	12.2	7.3	13.6	3.4
Reported	19.1	12.7	7.7	13.2	5.1
Percent with Minimum Benefit ^f					
Calculated	6.7	3.0	24.3	0.2	9.6
Reported	6.1	2.4	21.9	0.3	8.9

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

^fMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- or two-person households.

Source: Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix G--Sampling error of estimates

The estimates of the characteristics of food stamp households contained in this report are based on a sample of households and are therefore subject to statistical sampling error. This appendix presents estimates of the statistical sampling errors associated with certain key variables included in the tables in this report. In addition, it outlines methods for estimating the standard errors of other variables for which standard errors have not been directly calculated.

Standard Errors and Confidence Intervals

One important indicator of the magnitude of the possible sampling error associated with a given estimate is its standard error. Standard errors measure the variation in estimated values which would be observed if multiple replications of the sample were drawn. The magnitude of the standard errors depend on (1) the degree of variation in the variable within the overall population from which the sample has been drawn; (2) the design of the sample, including such issues as stratification and sampling probabilities; and (3) the size of the sample on which the estimate is based.

The standard error of estimates of proportions, s_p , based on simple random samples is given by the formula:

$$(1) s_p = \sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)}$$

where p is the sample estimate of the proportion and n is the sample size.

Standard errors of estimated numbers of households based on simple random samples are:

$$(2) s_N = N \sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)}$$

where N is the number of households in the population.

However, the formulas for the standard errors of simple random samples do not necessarily provide an accurate estimate for more complex stratified samples such as the stratified sample design used for this study. In this appendix, estimates produced by the formulas above are referred to as "naive standard errors." More accurate standard errors are provided for key estimates by

directly calculating their standard errors through a replicate method as discussed below.¹

Standard errors can be used to construct confidence intervals for estimated variables. A confidence interval is a range of values that will contain the true value of an estimated characteristic with a known probability. For instance, a 95-percent confidence interval extends approximately two standard errors above and below the estimated value for a characteristic and 95-percent of all confidence intervals will contain the true value.

The following discussion presents, for a selected set of key estimates, standard errors estimated using the replication method. It then presents a simple method for approximating standard errors of estimated numbers of households and percentages when individual standard errors have not been estimated.

Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Households

The standard errors for selected estimates of Food Stamp Program (FSP) households are shown in table G-1. These standard errors can be used to compute the 95-percent confidence interval for the estimated number of households with a particular characteristic. For example, the estimate in table G-1 of the number of elderly households with zero net income has a standard error of 10.10 thousand and therefore the 95-percent confidence interval extends from 85 thousand to 125 thousand, around the point estimate of 105 thousand.² With such a confidence interval, 95-percent of all intervals constructed in this fashion will contain the true value of the variable.

For standard errors not shown in table G-1, the approximate standard error, S_E , of an estimated number can be obtained by the use of the formula:

$$(3) \quad S_E = s_N \times d \times f$$

where s_N is the naive standard error from either equation (2) above or from table G-2, d is the average design effect of 1.4, and f is an adjustment factor from table G-5 that potentially can

¹Standard errors have been estimated using the replicate sample method described in Leslie Kish, Survey Sampling, 1965, pp. 127-128. In implementing this approach, the samples used in the estimation work were divided into 40 replicate subsamples.

²Calculated by rounding to the nearest thousand; $(105 - (2 \times 10.1)) = 85$, and $(105 + (2 \times 10.1)) = 125$.

improve the approximation by partially accounting for the variation in design effects across subgroups of the sample.³ The average design effect is the average increase in the size of the standard error estimated by the replicate method over that of the naive standard error appropriate for a simple random sample. Use of the adjustment factor *f* will generally improve the approximation when the base of the estimated percentage or number and the characteristic used in defining the percentage or total are quite similar to the bases and characteristics shown in table G-5. In other cases *f* should be ignored by setting it to 1.0.

For example, to obtain the approximate standard error for the number of households containing an elderly person with zero net income, the first step is to obtain the size of the estimate. From table 45 of the detailed tables, we see that 105 thousand elderly households have zero net income. The next step is to obtain the naive standard error from either equation (2) or less accurately from table G-2. Using equation (2), the value is 7.81 thousand households.⁴ Multiplying 7.81 times the design factor *d* of 1.4 produces the first approximation of 10.93. In this case the same base for the number of households (i.e., with elderly) and the same characteristic (i.e., zero net income) are defined in table G-5. Consequently, using the *f* factor from table G-5 should improve the approximation. Multiplying the first approximation of 10.93 times the adjustment factor of .92 from table G-5 produces a second approximation of 10.06. In this case the approximation can be compared with the specific standard error estimate from table G-1, 10.10 thousand. The second approximation happened to be underestimated in this case, but is closer than the naive standard error of 7.81 thousand (the naive standard error does not account for sample design effects) and closer than the estimate based only on the average design effect (10.93).

³The average design effect is the ratio of the average standard error computed by the replication method to the average naive standard error across all cells of table G-5.

⁴Calculated as;

$$1433 \times \sqrt{((105/1433) \times (1 - (105/1433))/2287)} = 7.81$$

Where 1433 is the estimated number of elderly households, 105 is the estimated number of elderly with zero gross incomes and 2287 is the sample size of elderly households. Table G-4 is accurate only for the full sample size of all food stamp households.

Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages

The standard errors for selected estimated percentages of FSP households are shown in table G-3. As discussed above, these standard errors can be used to compute the 95-percent interval for the estimated percentage. For example, the estimate in table G-3 of the percentage of households with children with zero gross income has a standard error of .34 and therefore the 95-percent confidence interval extends from 4.8 percent to 5.2 percent, around the point estimate of 5.5 percent.⁵

For estimated percentages not shown in table G-3, the approximate standard error, S_E , can be obtained by the use of the formula:

$$(4) \quad S_E = s_p \times d \times f$$

where s_p is the naive standard error from equation (1) above or less accurately from table G-4, d is the average design effect of 1.4, and f is an adjustment factor from table G-5 to improve the approximation as discussed above.

For example, to obtain an approximate estimate of the standard error for the percentage of households with children who have zero net income, the first step is to obtain the estimated percentage and the size of the base for the estimated percentage. From table 51 of the detailed tables we see that 4,331 thousand households have children. From table 53 of Chapter 4 we see that 13.6 percent of households with children have zero net income. The next step is to obtain the naive standard error from equation (1). Using equation (1) the square root of $(.136 \times .864)/(6860-1) = .414$ percent. Multiplying the naive standard error of .414 times the average design factor of 1.4 times the specific adjustment factor of .92 from table G-5 produces an adjusted approximation of .533. In this case the approximation can be compared with the specific standard error estimate from table G-3, 0.53. Thus, this approximation is quite close to the actual estimated standard error.

Standard Errors for Estimated Means

The standard errors for selected estimated means are provided in table G-6. These standard errors can be used to compute a 95-percent confidence interval. For example, the standard error for average gross income for all FSP households as shown in table G-6 is 3.30, and its mean is \$434. Therefore, a 95-percent

⁵Calculated by rounding to the nearest tenth of a percent as; $(5.5 - (2 \times .34)) = 4.8$, and $(5.5 + (2 \times .34)) = 6.2$.

confidence interval extends between approximately \$427 and \$441.⁶

Generalized approximation methods such as those used above work well for standard errors of estimated numbers and percentages since the standard errors depend only on the sample size, the estimated proportion, and the design effects. Generalized methods are less appropriate for standard errors of means since the standard error depends on the variance as well as the sample size and design effects. However, a rough approximation of the likely magnitude of standard errors of means not included in table G-6 can be obtained from table G-7 which shows the standard error as a percent of the mean value for all FSP households and successively smaller subsets of households. In this table, the approximate standard errors as a percent of the mean value are shown as the average across the 12 variables from table G-6. The lowest and highest values across the 12 variables for each subset of households are also shown to give an indication of the quality of the approximation provided by the standard error expressed as a percent of the mean value. These standard errors include the design effects as they were estimated using a replication method.

⁶Rounding to the nearest dollar, $(434 - (2 * 3.30)) = 427$ and $(426 + (2 * 3.66)) = \$441$.

Appendix Table G-1--Standard errors of estimated numbers of food stamp households: winter 1988^a
(thousands)

Base of estimated number	Households with							Sample size
	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Earned income	Elderly	Children	School-age children	
All FSP households	23.18	38.42	24.68	33.39	42.43	47.51	47.13	11,012
With elderly	4.28	10.10	21.59	8.99	NA	14.60	13.58	2,287
Without elderly	20.99	36.01	12.20	29.02	NA	40.01	40.54	8,725
With children	14.73	23.18	2.47	26.87	13.27	NA	28.78	6,860
With schoolchildren	14.48	19.63	1.44	23.59	12.77	NA	NA	5,203
Without children	17.09	27.10	25.64	20.32	37.07	NA	NA	4,152
With earnings	NA	13.33	8.07	NA	6.59	18.24	19.10	2,445
With disabled	NA	4.68	7.71	7.38	NA	14.43	14.43	960

^aStandard errors computed as number of households in estimated base times the standard errors of the estimated percentages from table G-3. Standard errors in table G-3 were estimated with the replication method.

Appendix Table G-2--Naive estimate standard errors of
estimated numbers of food stamp households
(thousands)

Size of estimate	Naive est. of standard error ^a
10	2.53
50	5.65
100	7.96
250	12.44
500	17.27
1,000	23.48
2,000	30.35
3,000	33.30
4,000	33.40
5,000	30.66
6,000	24.16
6,500	18.36

^aApplicable when the base of the estimated number is all food stamp households.

Naive standard error = $\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}$

where: N = the number of FSP households (7,071 thousand)
p = the size of the estimate divided by N
n = the size of sample (11,012)

Appendix Table G-3--Standard errors of estimated percentages
of food stamp households: winter 1988^a

Base of estimated percentage	Households with							
	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Earned income	Elderly	Children	School-age children	Disabled
All FSP households	0.33	0.54	0.35	0.47	0.60	0.67	0.67	0.34
With elderly	0.30	0.70	1.51	0.63	NA	1.02	0.95	NA
Without elderly	0.37	0.64	0.22	0.51	NA	0.71	0.72	0.39
With children	0.34	0.53	0.06	0.62	0.31	NA	0.66	0.34
With schoolchildren	0.44	0.59	0.04	0.71	0.38	NA	NA	0.46
Without children	0.62	0.99	0.94	0.74	1.35	NA	NA	0.73
With earnings	NA	0.91	0.55	NA	0.45	1.25	1.31	0.53
With disabled	NA	0.77	1.26	1.21	NA	2.36	2.36	NA

^aStandard errors were estimated using the replication method for the Winter 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table G-4--Naive estimate of standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households^a

Base of est. percentage	Estimated percentage			
	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
10	5.52	7.60	10.97	12.67
50	2.47	3.40	4.91	5.67
100	1.75	2.40	3.47	4.01
250	1.10	1.52	2.19	2.53
500	0.78	1.08	1.55	1.79
1,000	0.55	0.76	1.10	1.27
2,000	0.39	0.54	0.78	0.90
3,000	0.32	0.44	0.63	0.73
4,000	0.28	0.38	0.55	0.63
5,000	0.25	0.34	0.49	0.57
6,000	0.23	0.31	0.45	0.52
7,000	0.21	0.29	0.41	0.48

^aApplicable when the base of the estimated number is all food stamp households.

Naive standard error = $\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}$ where p equals estimated percentage divided by 100, and n is the sample size of 11,012 for all food stamp households.

Appendix Table 6-5---Adjustment factors for standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households: winter 1988^a

Base of estimated number	Households with							Average factor
	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Earned income	Elderly	Children	School-age children	
All FSP households	0.97	1.05	1.04	0.87	1.12	1.03	1.00	1.00
With elderly	0.98	0.92	1.20	1.10	NA	1.15	1.12	1.08
Without elderly	0.90	1.04	0.96	0.79	NA	1.08	0.97	0.94
With children	0.89	0.92	0.68	0.82	1.00	NA	0.93	0.87
With schoolchildren	1.01	0.93	0.57	0.81	1.01	NA	NA	0.87
Without children	0.99	1.03	1.15	1.19	1.25	NA	NA	1.11
With earnings	NA	0.98	1.14	NA	0.82	1.18	0.98	1.02
With disabled	NA	0.94	0.95	0.94	NA	1.05	1.07	0.99
Average factor	0.96	0.98	0.96	0.93	1.04	1.10	1.01	1.02

^aThe adjustment factors are defined A/B; where A = the ratio of the standard error computed by the replication method to the naive standard error for the specific cell of the table, and B = the ratio of the average standard error computed by the replication method to the average naive standard error across all cells.

Appendix Table 6-6--Standard Errors of Estimated Means: winter 1988^a

Base of estimated mean	Gross income	Net income	Benefits	All deduct.	Total resources	Households with Certification				AFDC & GA ^b	SSI ^b	Dependent care cost ^b	Shelter deduction ^b
						Household size	period	Earnings ^b					
All FSP households	3.30	2.94	1.10	1.12	4.76	0.02	0.04	9.61		3.19	4.17	3.60	1.14
With elderly	4.43	5.24	1.67	2.77	12.41	0.03	0.09	30.43		14.33	6.04	0.00	3.35
Without elderly	3.69	3.12	1.41	1.18	5.57	0.02	0.03	9.72		3.17	6.36	3.82	1.04
With children	3.80	3.46	1.52	1.50	6.87	0.02	0.04	9.99		3.61	8.28	3.81	1.34
With schoolchildren	4.62	4.06	1.74	1.81	2.93	0.02	0.06	12.06		4.73	8.31	5.07	1.68
Without children	3.59	3.05	0.86	1.80	7.53	0.01	0.08	13.93		5.92	5.22	1.05	2.28
With earnings	10.21	9.40	2.97	2.25	6.03	0.05	0.10	9.61		8.88	15.64	4.13	1.85
With disabled	13.89	14.47	3.56	4.72	11.10	0.09	0.15	45.61		10.11	6.37	c	5.50

^aStandard errors were estimated using the replication method.

^bFor households with a non-zero amount.

^cSample size too small to make an estimate.

Appendix Table G-7--Range of standard errors of mean amounts expressed as a percent of the mean amount^a

Number of households in base of mean (thousands)	Standard error as percent of mean amount		
	Average ^b	Lowest ^c	Highest ^d
7,071 (all FSP households)	1.59	0.42	3.71
4,331 (households with children)	1.84	0.01	11.64
1,458 (households with earnings)	2.68	0.77	6.28
612 (households with disabled)	5.03	1.48	13.18

^aStandard errors were from table G-6 and mean amounts from applicable text tables.

^bAverage standard error across all 12 variables in table G-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

^cLowest of the standard errors across all 12 variables in table G-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

^dHighest of the standard errors across all 12 variables in table G-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

Appendix H-Data Collection Instrument

Form Approved
OMB No. 0960-0013

(For Optional State Use)

INTEGRATED REVIEW SCHEDULE

PRIVACY ACT/PAPERWORK NOTICE ACT: This report is required under provisions of 45 CFR 205.40 (AFDC), 7 CFR 273.14 (Food Stamp), and 42 CFR 431.800 (Medicaid). This information is needed for the review of state performance in determining recipient eligibility. The information is used to determine state compliance, and failure to report may result in a finding of non-compliance.

I. REVIEW SUMMARY

1. Review Number	1a. Case Number	2. State and Local Agency Codes	3. Sample Month and Year	4. Status	5. Review Type
AFDC/ADULT	AFDC/ADULT	AFDC/ADULT	FS		
MA	FS				
6. Disposition	7. Review Findings	8. Amount of Error			
FS	MA				

II. CASE INFORMATION

9. Most Recent Opening	10. Most Recent Action	11. Type of Action	12. No. of Case Members	13. Liquid Assets	14. Real Property (Excl. Home)	15. Countable Vehicle Assets	16. Other Non-Liquid Assets
ADULT							
AFDC							
FS							
MA							

CASE INFORMATION - AFDC/ADULT

17. Monthly Payment Standard	18. Sample Month's Payment	19. Prior Assistance	20. Uniform Child	21. Shelter Arrangement	22. Gross Countable Income	23. Work Related Expenses	24. Child or Dependent Care Expenses	25. First \$20 and 1/3 of Remainder	26. Net Countable Income

CASE INFORMATION - FOOD STAMP

27. Case Classification	28. Months in Cert. Period	29. Coupon Amount	30. Exped. Service	31. Auth. Rep.	32. Gross Countable Income	33. Earned Income Deduction	34. Medical Cost	35. Shelter Cost	36. Dependent Care Cost	37. Net Countable Income

CASE INFORMATION - MEDICAID

38. Medical Expenses Used to Meet Spenddown Amount	39. Gross Countable Income	40. Net Countable Income

IV. TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME, BY HOUSEHOLD MEMBER AND TYPE AND AMOUNT OF INCOME

[illegible]

V. ELIGIBILITY REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID

62. Eligibility Coverage Codes	
Agency	OC

SA	Initial Case	Eligibility Status
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
5	5	5
6	6	6
7	7	7
8	8	8
9	9	9
10	10	10
11	11	11
12	12	12
13	13	13
14	14	14
15	15	15
16	16	16
17	17	17
18	18	18
19	19	19
20	20	20
21	21	21
22	22	22
23	23	23
24	24	24
25	25	25
26	26	26
27	27	27
28	28	28
29	29	29
30	30	30
31	31	31
32	32	32
33	33	33
34	34	34
35	35	35
36	36	36
37	37	37
38	38	38
39	39	39
40	40	40
41	41	41
42	42	42
43	43	43
44	44	44
45	45	45
46	46	46
47	47	47
48	48	48
49	49	49
50	50	50
51	51	51
52	52	52
53	53	53
54	54	54
55	55	55
56	56	56
57	57	57
58	58	58
59	59	59
60	60	60
61	61	61
62	62	62
63	63	63
64	64	64
65	65	65
66	66	66
67	67	67
68	68	68
69	69	69
70	70	70
71	71	71
72	72	72
73	73	73
74	74	74
75	75	75
76	76	76
77	77	77
78	78	78
79	79	79
80	80	80
81	81	81
82	82	82
83	83	83
84	84	84
85	85	85
86	86	86
87	87	87
88	88	88
89	89	89
90	90	90
91	91	91
92	92	92
93	93	93
94	94	94
95	95	95
96	96	96
97	97	97
98	98	98
99	99	99
100	100	100

64. Initial Case Liability Error

65. Amount of Excess Resources				
--------------------------------	--	--	--	--

VI. DETAILED ERROR FINDINGS

[illegible]

Counted	Not Counted

Counted	Counted

Not Counted	

Appendix I--List of previous reports in this series

- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1987. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1990
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1986. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1988
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1985. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1987
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1984. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, February 1983. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1982. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1981. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1984
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1980. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1981
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, November 1979. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1981
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, February 1978. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1980
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, September 1976. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1977
- Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, September 1975. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1976

